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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

SEPTEMBER 1995
48493

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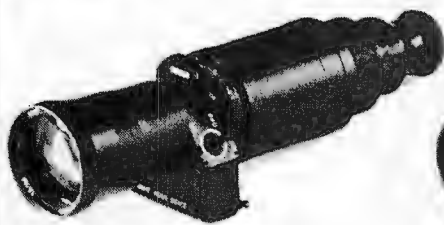
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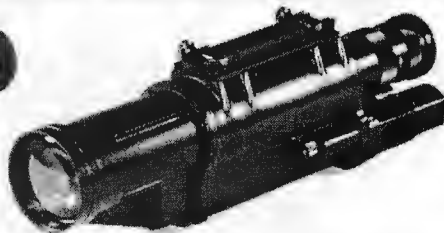
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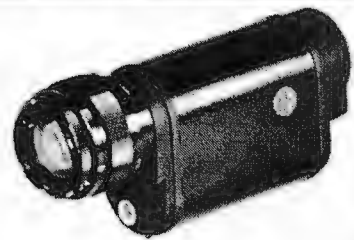
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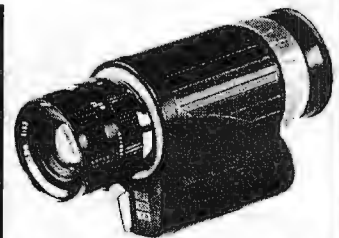


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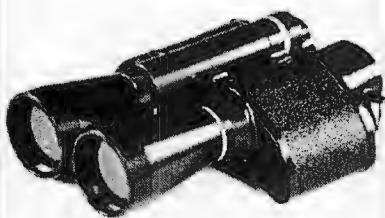


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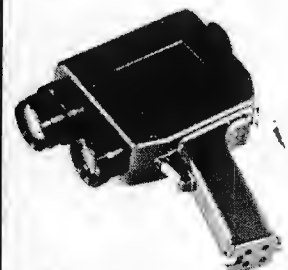


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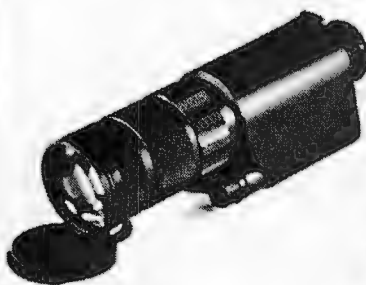


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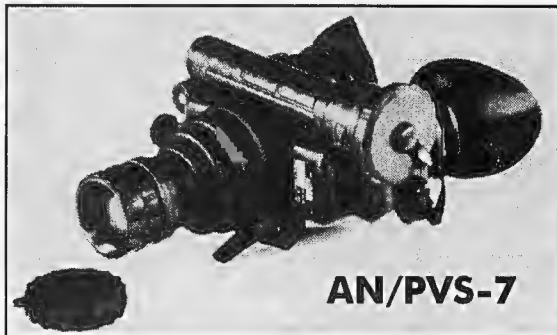
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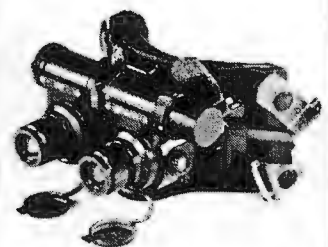
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Not All Government Thugs Wear Jackboots

by Robert K. Brown

In June, word leaked to the liberal media that the National Rifle Association was being subjected to "a sweeping investigation" by the Internal Revenue Service, and that its tax exempt status might be reviewed.

The IRS claimed the investigation had nothing to do with the NRA's all-out push to repeal the Clinton administration's assault rifle ban and its role in dispatching anti-gun members of Congress. It claimed the NRA was selected for investigation "at random."

In this the IRS was almost certainly lying. The more likely explanation is that the investigation was prompted by the NRA's role in defeating some 30 anti-gun congressional Democrats who voted for the assault rifle ban last year.

Last winter, in an interview with Cleveland's *The Plain Dealer*, Clinton acknowledged that support for the assault rifle ban cost the party those seats. What he did not say, but knew, was that those losses accounted for the Democrats' loss of control of the House of Representatives. The NRA, in short, is no longer merely a pain in the neck to the Clinton administration and the Democratic Party's liberal wing; it is a threat to their continued grip on political power.

A threat to one's political survival tends to concentrate the mind, and using the IRS as a means of attacking one's political enemies is not exactly a new idea. It is a tactic that is effective and almost impossible to prevent, let alone prove.

There isn't much point in asking the Justice Department to investigate this matter. One would have to have inhaled a lot to believe that Janet Reno would have much enthusiasm for such a probe. By the same token, asking the Congress to investigate isn't apt to accomplish much. Both parties have reasons not to inquire too deeply into the use of the IRS to get at one's political enemies.

However, there is a way to prevent this sort of abuse in the future and to make the Clinton administration and its tax-and-spend allies in Congress pay for this particular abuse of power: Get rid of the IRS or, minimally, whittle it down to size. There are several proposals in Congress to abolish the income tax and replace it either with a flat tax or a value added tax (a national sales tax). Either one would be a vast improvement over today's Byzantine tax code, which has so many regulations, codicils and provisos that honest compliance is virtually impossible. The current system also places too much discretionary enforcement authority in the hands of the IRS.

Getting rid of the income tax and its labyrinthine regulations and replacing it with a tax system simple enough for ordinary Americans to grasp would vastly reduce the power of the IRS. Coupling tax reform with a tax cut would reduce it still further. Reducing the power of the IRS would deprive liberal anti-gunners of one of their most important, and most abused, instruments of power. ✖

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FEATURES

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH A BATF AGENT?

Was McVeigh at the Waco trial? A closer look at suspicious photo from *SOF*'s June issue. **35**

CALAMITY AT KAWMURA K. Hanson

After a year of defeats and mutinies, the Karens' last outpost in Burma finally falls to SLORC forces. Is it the end for the resistance? **36**

OWN NIGHT VISION, OWN THE NIGHT Eugene Nielsen

Today's night vision devices can provide a...

tactical edge, but they are *not* all created equal. *SOF* offers a consumer's guide to what's hot and what's not. **38**

MISMANAGED, MINDLESS & MACHO SOF Staff

Interview with former ATF agent shows that inefficiency and incompetence at the top are responsible for problems on the ground. **42**

MOTHER RUSSIA'S SNIPER RIFLE Peter G. Kokalis

Now you can own the same sniper rifle Ivan used to relentlessly

harass the Wehrmacht. And this World War II Russian sniper technology is available at giveaway prices. **44**

IT TAKES ONE TO CATCH ONE?

Mark H. Milstein
Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority takes on the world's deadliest terrorist organization. *SOF* takes an inside look at the PLO's thin blue line. **48**

SOF EDITOR'S FINAL FIREFIGHTS Col. Robert MacKenzie

Follow Col. Robert MacKenzie on his last missions in Bosnia as

he fights with First Guards Brigade of the HVO in their recapture of Kupres. **52**

Op 34 Alpha THE LOST COMMANDOS Dale Andradé

South Vietnamese behind-the-lines commandos endured years of North Vietnamese captivity and now face an ungrateful America. With friends like us, who needs enemies? **56**

Waco: SOF DRIVES CONGRESSIONAL PROBE

James L. Pate
Heeding cries from across the country, Congress finally begins hearings on the Waco disaster and *SOF* helps write the script. **60**

QUESTION 46

James L. Pate
You've heard about the so-called "New World Order" questionnaire given to U.S. soldiers: "Would you fire on American gun owners?" *SOF* tells you how they answered. **62**



Takes One to Catch One — page 48

Photo: Mark H. Milstein



COLUMNS

- Command Guidance 3**
- Slick Willie Watch 6**
- Bulletin Board 12**
Michigan Targets Militias
- World SitRep 16**
- Combat Weaponcraft 20**
Only Clean Rifles Are Interesting
- ATF Watch 22**
Gun Gestapo Buys Attack Planes?
- I Was There 27**
Mad Minute From LCM
- FLAK 30**
SF Under U.N. Command
- Supply Locker 88**
- Classified 92**
- Advertisers Index 97**
- Parting Shot 98**
You Are The Militia



Final Firefights — page 52

Photo: Robert MacKenzie

COVER

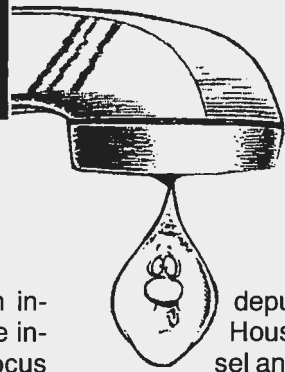
Colonel Robert MacKenzie found Croat troopers in Bosnia the best and most professional in the field. When he put together the commander's recon unit he drew heavily on their expertise. This Croat fighter is loaded for Serbs — packing an assault rifle, UZI SMG, sidearm and fighting knife. Story on page 52. Photo: Krpan Jasmin



Calamity at Kawmura — page 36

Photo: Max Weale

SLICK WILLIE WATCH



PAYING THE PIPER

Published reports tally the Clintons' legal bill because of myriad Whitewater investigations and the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit to be at least \$1 million at present, and likely to top \$2 million. Awwwww.

SENATE CREATES WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

The U.S. Senate voted almost unanimously 17 May 1995 to create a special committee to investigate and hold public hearings on a mélange of Whitewater-related issues, including the finances of Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial campaign, and whether White House officials were improperly coached when they appeared before the Senate in the first Whitewater hearings last summer.

The first of these public hearings will probably take place after the Independence Day recess and continue over the following nine months, keeping the spotlight on a politically draining controversy for Clinton, right to the brink of the 1996 presidential primary season.

Republican presidential hopeful Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, withdrew from the committee "in fairness to both President Clinton and my colleagues in the Senate. Given my candidacy, participation in the investigation could be construed as inappropriate and potentially damaging to the integrity of the inquiry."

NO BEST AND BRIGHTEST SENT TO WHITE HOUSE EITHER, TOOTS

Vietnam veterans have reacted strongly to remarks on television by Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala that the United States did not send its "best and brightest" to fight in Vietnam. We were wondering, does she include the Veep in that remark?

Noted retired Marine Colonel Theodore Gatchel in *The Providence Journal-Bulletin*, "I would advise Americans who do not share Ms. Shalala's opinion to regard her statement as simply another act in a long-running farce. ... Her statement says absolutely nothing about the 2-1/2 million Americans who served in Vietnam. It says worlds about what Ms. Shalala thinks about those men and women, however."

AG SEEKS FULL-SCALE GRAND JURY PROBE OF BROWN

Following a 90-day preliminary inquiry by the FBI, Janet Reno has asked for an independent counsel to determine if Commerce Secretary Ron Brown has violated federal law in his private financial dealings or in his reports of those transactions. Reno said a grand jury investigation by an outside counsel should first consider whether Brown broke any laws "with his acceptance of things of value" from businesswoman Nolanda Hill and a company in which

both formerly held an interest. Further that the investigation should focus on allegations that Brown filed inaccurate financial disclosure reports as a Cabinet member, and made false statements on his loan application to purchase a townhouse two years ago.

Questions have been raised, among others, about a \$500,000 payment Brown received from Hill when he cut ties to

deputy White House counsel and a close friend of President and Hillary Clinton, was found dead in Fort Marcy Park on 20 July 1993. The U.S. Park Service police and former Whitewater prosecutor Robert Fiske had said Foster's death was the result of a "self-inflicted" gunshot wound to the head, but controversy based on obvious forensic evidence has swirled



their Washington-based First International Communications Corp. — although Brown had invested no money in the enterprise.

EXPERTS QUESTION FOSTER "SUICIDE"

Two crime scene experts say their review of the death of White House aide Vince Foster led them to conclude there was a "high probability" that Foster's body was transported to a Virginia park after he died. Foster,

around the incident.

Now added to those who question the findings of suicide are Vincent Scalice, who currently runs Forensic Control Systems and served 21 years with the New York City PD, and Fred Santucci who served the same department for 27 years. Scalice and Santucci would not speculate on who might have been responsible for Foster's death, but concluded that "homicide has not been ruled out." ✖

POINT SHOOTING

Battle-Proven Methods of Combat Handgunning

With an introduction by Col. Rex Applegate



In a gunfight, winning and losing are measured in terms of lives, not trophies. No amount of "combat competition" will teach you what you need to know to survive when the target is shooting back. To learn realistic combat shooting, you need to study the methods of those who have actually done it and lived to tell about it. This was the approach taken by the members of the legendary OSS during WWII, who took the combat-tested techniques of the Shanghai Police and the gunfighters of the Old West and combined them with their own real-time combat experience to develop the most effective system of close-quarter combat shooting ever devised. This video presents in its entirety U.S. Army Film Bulletin 152, the only training film ever produced on this dynamic method of combat handgun shooting. Previously classified, this rare film is now available to the public for the first time. This tape is a must for collectors, military historians and anyone interested in learning what real combat shooting is all about. Color, approx. 30 min., VHS (U.S. format) only. **\$29.95**



WATCH MY BACK

A Bouncer's Story
by Geoff Thompson

As a bouncer in some of Britain's roughest bars, Geoff Thompson has been in hundreds of fights. Here he reveals what it takes to prevail when things turn ugly, including the two biggest secrets to winning a real fight, the difference between street fighters and trained fighters, how to handle the police and many more lessons, tips and war stories. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, 176 pp. **\$17.95**



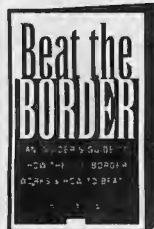
THE WHOLE SPY CATALOG

by Lee Lapin

The Whole Spy Catalog shows you exactly how to hire an ex-KGB agent, order a photo of anyone on earth anytime during the last 20 years, get an instant background check on anyone, open a door from 100 feet away, subscribe to an in-house FBI newsletter, order and install the latest electronic surveillance gear and many more tricks to trace, track, surveil and investigate anyone or anything. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, illus., 448 pp. **\$44.95**



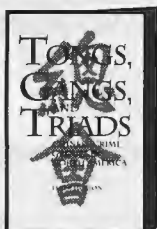
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An Insider's Guide to How the U.S. Border Works and How to Beat It
by Ned Beaumont

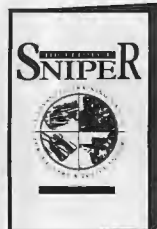
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Protect Your Money, Property, and Family from Courts, Creditors, and the IRS
by Adam Starchild

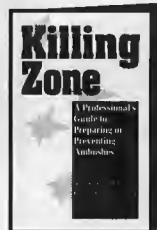
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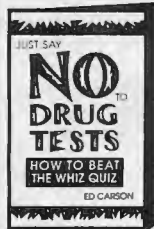
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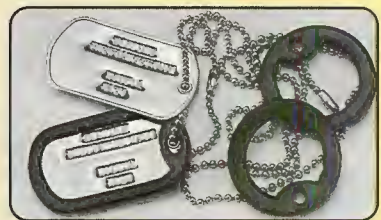
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SEAL Team on Black, MSS64
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LC-2 Combat 3 Day/Butt Pack, OD, Blk	ALC60	\$19.95
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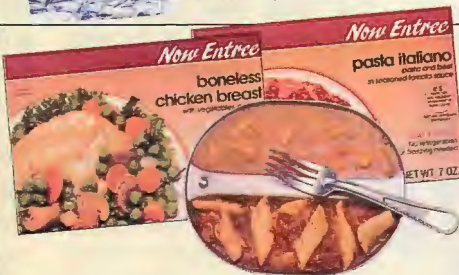
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BULLETIN BOARD

WACO TRAGEDY HEARINGS SET

House hearings — held jointly by subcommittees of the Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight — into the 1993 federal assault on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, that ended with the deaths of some 80 Davidians, will begin in Washington, D.C., 12 July 1995.

WACO: THE BIG LIE — PART III?

Indiana attorney Linda Thompson, self-anointed acting adjutant general of the Unorganized Militia of the United States, founder of the American Justice Federation, purveyor of videotapes on the Waco incident, organizer of a proposed armed march on Washington to arrest legislators for treason, etc., has been arrested in

various activities. According to court documents, Thompson became irate when Deputy Jeffrey Dunn told her she was not providing enough information to file charges against the reporter. Thompson allegedly began “yelling and screaming” and told Dunn the people responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing were shooting her in the head with radio frequency weapons, having already killed

permit for it. Dunn claimed he feared Thompson would draw her gun, and grabbed her. After a struggle, Thompson was disarmed and handcuffed.

MICHIGAN BILLS WILL TARGET MILITIAS

Michigan State Sen. Jim Berryman, D-Adrian, and State Rep. Jim McBryde, R-Mount Pleasant, announced 1 June that they will introduce “a package of bills” to restrict the activities of paramilitary organizations in Michigan. “The people of Michigan enjoy the protection of local and state police, federal officials and the Michigan National Guard,” said Berryman. “There should be no confusion between these legitimate public protection agencies and unregulated paramilitary groups.”

The legislators claim the use of official-sounding names and military uniforms by paramilitary organizations such as the “Michigan Militia” is designed to mislead the public and lend legitimacy to their outfits. Said Major General E. Gordon Stump, director of the Michigan National Guard and the state Department of Military Affairs, “As long as paramilitary groups masquerade as militia, we will support legislative efforts to regulate them.”

Deputy Dunn discovered a computerized police record indicating Thompson had been recently arrested for carrying a handgun without a license, and asked her if she had a handgun; whereupon, Thompson allegedly opened her jacket to show a cocked-and-locked .45, but refused to tell Dunn if she had a

The proposed legislation would: ban “military activities” by “non-military” personnel on state parks and property; prohibit impersonation of military of-



Firefighter firefight: Volunteer American firefighter John Jordan of Fire Rescue Services holds his M1A rifle in one hand as he shields a Sarajevan from sniper fire in downtown Sarajevo, Bosnia, 7 June 1995. Fighting has greatly intensified in and around the besieged city as a Bosnian offensive attempts to break the siege. Photo: AP/Wide World/David Brauchli

Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of the House Judiciary Crime Committee said, “This will be an exhaustive examination of the Waco tragedy so that at the conclusion of the hearings, the American public will feel they have all the answers.” It’s been a long time coming — we hope he’s right.

Marion County, Indiana, and charged with battery on an officer, resisting law enforcement and disorderly conduct.

The flap began when Thompson came to the county prosecutor’s office to file battery and stalking charges against an Indianapolis newspaper reporter who has written about Thompson and her

ficers or military personnel; prohibit the use of any corporate name that would "mislead the public into believing that an organization is connected or attached to the organized militia or a unit thereof in any capacity or way whatsoever."

YEAH RIGHT, MUAMMAR

Libyan strongman and bon-vivant Muammar "Lockerbie" Khadafi says that the Oklahoma City bombing signals the start of a mass revolt against the American government, and has offered President Clinton refuge in Libya, which he describes as "the only safe country in the world." In a speech that marked a historical battle between Libyans and Italians 80 years ago, Khadafi said, "Oklahoma was the beginning of the reaction of the masses liv-

ing in America ... It was a reaction against the nightmare and tyranny." Oh really? Muammar, if you want to see how American masses react, just stand by and watch what

happens as we investigate, prosecute and convict those responsible for the Oklahoma City outrage. Hopefully, it'll showcase some methodology you might want to adopt.



SOF's technical editor, Peter G. Kokalis (center), recently traveled to Bosnia-Herzegovina with two assistant instructors, Dr. Bill Adkins (left) and Chris Mayer (right), to provide training for more than 30 machine gunners of the Ante Bruno Busic 1st Guard Brigade of the HVO (Croatian Army of Bosnia). Instruction was given in the tactical employment, maintenance and hit probability enhancement of the PK, MG42 and MG34 GPMGs, and the RPD squad automatic at a training center 60 km southeast of the front lines at Kupres. Photo: courtesy Peter G. Kokalis

AFRICA FOR SALE

Interested in buying South African game ranches for an investment, a business, or to ensure your own hunting grounds? Contact Mike McPike at Global Adventures, 8762 S. Mourning Dove Lane, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126; phone/fax: 303-791-9959. You'll be surprised at what's available and the reasonable costs.

SOLDIERS OF SACRIFICE

American POWs from Bunker Hill to Mogadishu will be honored at the National POW museum at Andersonville, Georgia. Some 150,000 visitors a year already tour this symbol of the Civil War experience.

Construction commences when \$9 million is raised. Some \$2.5 million is being raised by vol-

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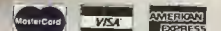
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unteers, headed by honorary chairpersons, former POW Admiral James B. and Mrs. Stockdale. Federal grants will provide \$6.5 million. Sale of commemorative coins will eventually provide \$5 million. Congress appropriated \$1.5 million for planning and design, now completed.

To order the \$35 commemorative silver coins, phone 800-424-2318, or send a check to the U.S. Mint, Box 41988, Philadelphia, PA 19101. To donate to the construction fund or for further information, contact Superintendent Fred Boyles, Andersonville Historic Site, Route 1, Box 800, Andersonville, GA 31711; phone: 912-924-0343. POW artifacts will be gratefully received. Park rangers are recording POW experiences for a computer database

when funds are available. — *Bess M. Tittle*

IPSC 20TH YEAR REUNION

The 20th Year IPSC Reunion is scheduled for 21-23 March 1996 in Pretoria, South Africa. The reunion match is scheduled to be held at the Iscor International Shooting Range in Pretoria. For further particulars, contact Mr. Era de Klerk, the convener — 20th Year IPSC Reunion, P.O. Box 32523, Glenstantia, Pretoria 0010, South Africa; or Richard C. Thomas, 609 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201; phone: 314-442-3000.

TOXIN TOCSIN?

Larry W. Harris, a well and tank inspector at a Dublin, Ohio, food testing lab has been busted for using company auspices to order \$300 worth of

Yersinia pestis, the bacteria that causes bubonic plague. Police investigators say Harris bought the bacteria through the mail. Although described as a white supremacist, it is not known exactly why Harris thought he needed the plague bacteria. He has been charged with receiving stolen property. *\$300? We'll treat you to lunch in the SOF lunchroom for half that, and throw in a local field mouse with hanta virus.*

MORE GOOD NEWS

In addition to North America's recent assaults by Lyme disease, Legionnaires' disease, HIV, toxic shock syndrome, treatment-resistant TB, hanta virus and maniacs who play with fertilizer but have neither farms, quarries nor extra stumps, comes word that the mosquito that carries dengue fever has got-

ten a foothold in the United States.

And after a study of populations and demographics, researchers for the American Enterprise Institute predict that in five years there will be an additional 30,000 "killers, muggers and thieves" on the streets of America, and that this coming explosion in crime will be particularly violent — mainly because this new wave of criminals will be "especially vicious." Maximum-security cons interviewed in the research characterized this new breed of street thug as "stone-cold predators." The report concludes that such "predators" can't be deterred from crime by the threat of penalties, and certainly aren't restrained by pangs of conscience, "for they do not possess a normal range of human empathy or emotion." ✖

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I GEN.
PVS-200 Viewer
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NIGHT VISION GOGGLES

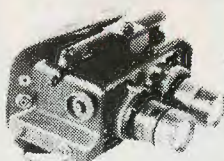
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Starlight Goggles

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III GEN.

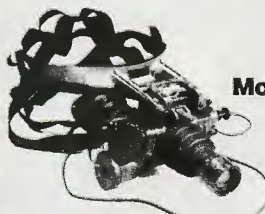
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Six years ago the Navy SEALs began using a scientific fighting system so powerful that today they're recognized as the most potent fighting force on the face of this earth.

The creator and designer of this system, Jerry Peterson, became the first civilian ever to standardize and license a hand-to-hand fighting system to the U.S. Military. Here's how it happened and why it's important to you.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-hand combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALs were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's scientific fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually an entire hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). The SEAL officers, Vietnam vets themselves, figured Jerry at least ought to understand their needs.

But they were totally unprepared for what happened next. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was instantly disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

'Blown Away' In Just Minutes

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALs into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALs began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believ-

ing SEALs, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry in situations like these:

□ SEALs are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles (this isn't a graceful art form) apply on any terrain.

□ SEALs are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

□ Once, Jerry challenged an entire platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then demonstrated it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALs use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEAL platoons go through a minimum of 40 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment.

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone [even you] to make instantaneously clear and correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastatingly Powerful

Yet if you expect to use Jerry Peterson's military techniques in civilian situations you're going to get yourself into trouble. Military confrontations are simply not the same as civilian.

What you need to know are methods even the military is not taught.

And now, in the most recent release of his system, Jerry reveals the specific techniques you must know to control any hostile civilian situation. It's called *Jerry Peterson's Hostile Control Systems*, and used correctly, this system is undefeatable.

In *Hostile Control* you'll find out how you can quickly (in no more than a day) learn to defeat or seriously disable anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one! You get the same devastating power the Navy SEALs use. It's just directed towards civilian confrontations.

Combat Proven

Everything in this system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam! But please understand.

This is not a course to impress friends at your local Karate studio. It's a professional fighting system.

You won't see Jerry Peterson or his pro-

fessional instructors on the Ultimate Fighting Challenge. This isn't sport fighting. Professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker. And to do it incredibly fast — in 20 years Jerry's longest fight lasted a mere 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles not on a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will because...

His System Is Undefeatable

One more thing. Cheap imitators may try to claim they've trained Navy SEALs, but let me explain what they've actually done.

SEAL platoons have discretionary funds they use to bring in all sorts of instructors. For example, they've hired the Evelyn Wood™ company to teach speed reading.

And that's the level these cheap imitators are working at. They've gone in at an 'Evelyn Wood' level and given their program to a platoon — maybe to just 1 or 2 men. But they're not the genuine thing.

Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand combat fighting system used by the U.S. Navy SEALs today.

Want to call these imitator's bluff? Jerry's official Naval Special Warfare course number is K-431-0096. Under the Freedom of Information Act call the Government Information Office and verify for yourself that this course, *Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary System (SCARS)* truly exists. You won't get details about it because it's restricted.

But ask these Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers what their official government course number is. You'll find they haven't got one!

In fact, if you're in a violent confrontation and all you have is these 'wanna-be' techniques, you might just be safer pulling out a book and trying to impress the assailant with your speed reading skills!

So now you decide. Do you want to learn more 'disguised' martial arts from cheap imitators coming in at the level of Evelyn Wood instructors?

Or will you make the decision the Navy SEALs made — and go with Jerry Peterson, the genuine developer of the official U.S. Navy SEAL combat fighting system!

Free Special Report

Jerry Peterson has created a **Free special report** which reveals amazing details about his *scientific* fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALs an undefeatable fighting force.

It's easy to get your free copy. Just call

1-800-600-1420

24-hours for a **Free recorded message** to get your **Free report**. Int'l call 602-817-0231

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Army wants new infantry rifle in production by 1999. Weapon will include both 5.56x45mm NATO caliber and a built-in 20mm or 30mm grenade launcher with a range of 1,000 meters, as well as advanced optics and laser range finders.

Officials consider reestablishing 5th Fleet, a naval headquarters that has not been active since 1945, to control U.S. Navy forces in Gulf.

Army court-martial finds Captain Lawrence Rockwood guilty of charges from an incident in which he left his post in Haiti to conduct a personal inspection of the National Penitentiary. Air Force court-martial acquits Capt. Jim Wang of charges stemming from downing of two U.S. helicopters over Iraq.

2

RUSSIA

Defense Minister Grachev gives go-ahead for new offensive into southern mountains of Chechnya only two days after the end of a cease-fire. Chechen rebels invade southern Russia and take as many as 1,500 Russians hostage for six days, demanding an end to fighting in separatist republic. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin brokers a cease-fire, hostage release and safe return of the Chechen rebels.

U.S. GAO reports Russia is using U.S. funds provided for scraping nuclear and chemical weapons to finance new weapons programs. Funds provided to convert military industry to civilian production are being used to reactivate dormant military plants for production to modernize Russian army and for export.

1

INDIA

Indian troops and Kashmiri separatists fight heavy battle near holy town of Charar-e-Sharief, destroying 600 homes, 200 businesses and the 14th century Muslim shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Wali. Pilots for Indian airlines demand fighter escorts for flights going into Kashmir to protect them from terrorist rockets.

6

SRI LANKA

Government forces go on anti-aircraft alert fearing rebel attacks by ultralight planes and gliders. Army officials admit they are on the offensive and prepared for a long and difficult war. Death toll since rebels broke the cease-fire is 181 rebels and 250 soldiers killed.

Government doctors provide training for potential chemical warfare casualties. Poison gas has been produced by mixing insecticide with phosphate, producing an agent similar to Sarin.

16

14

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JAPAN

For first time, annual "round the world cruise" by newly commissioned Japanese naval ensigns will include 13 female officers — also the first time female Japanese navy officers have been on a voyage outside Japanese waters.

11

GERMANY

Federal constitutional court rules that new united Germany cannot prosecute former East German spy masters who operated within the laws of their government. Big news magazine *Der Spiegel* reports German government has ordered Russia to withdraw 165 of its citizens accused of spying and threatens to publish the list of names.

12

TURKEY

Clashes continue between Turkish troops and PKK rebels in Diyarbakir, Kars and Tunceli provinces. Turkish government suggests minor border changes could help close off guerrilla smuggling routes, but Iraqi officials dismiss the idea.

3

IRAN

Three Americans are convicted of spying for the United States during First Gulf War (1980-1988) and sentenced to long prison terms.

Analysts predict new U.S. sanctions will not break Mullahs' grip on power, but instead will inspire them to greater militancy.

4

IRAQ

Officials claim widespread use of depleted uranium ammunition by U.S. forces during Gulf War is causing major health problems for its citizens.

Iraqi court upholds eight-year prison sentences of two Americans convicted of illegally entering the country.

5

BURMA

Government officials blame border tensions with Thailand on Thailand's harboring of Karen rebels. Thai troops raid Karen refugee camps, seize weapons and move 6,000 rebels farther from border to show their sincerity in solving the crisis.

2

CAMBODIA

Heavy fighting continues near Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin. Government forces predict they may be forced to capture the city to block a potential KR drive on Phnom Penh.

8

9

AFGHANISTAN

Fighting continues in Kabul. Government forces proceed with their advance against Taliban positions capturing Farah, and Maidan-Shahr.

Government holds talks with General Dostam but they collapse after Dostam accuses government of using peace talks to cover-up plans for military offensive.

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BOSNIA

United States is sending four Predator unmanned drones to Bosnia. Each can fly 300 miles to an area of interest, loiter for 24 hours and return. Thanks to stealth technology, even with a 50-foot wingspan their radar cross-section is the same as a small bird.

U.N. Quick Reaction Force is being organized with at least 10,000 troops. It will not be a "blue helmet" force of peacekeepers, but a security force whose command structure bypasses U.N. bureaucracy.

13

NORTH KOREA

Government officials ask Japan for food aid because of crop failures. One million North Koreans in Pyongyang, one third of its population, are reportedly forced to relocate to rural areas to work on food production.

14

SIERRA LEONE

Government forces and peace-keeping troops continue to hold the line against rebels. South African company Executive Outcomes takes over training of Sierra Leonean army from departing Gurkhas.

16

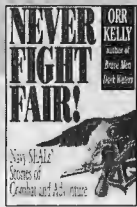
COLOMBIA

FARC rebels celebrate their 31st anniversary with an offensive, temporarily taking over large rural areas, setting up roadblocks, killing policemen and firing on government helicopters.

World SitRep is excerpted from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$65 per year (26 issues). Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

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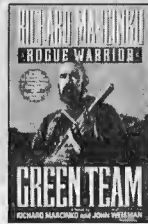
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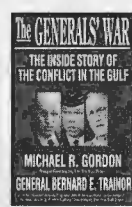
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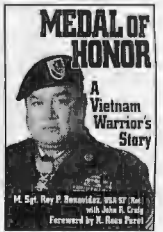
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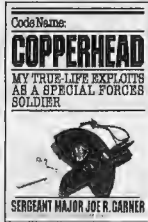
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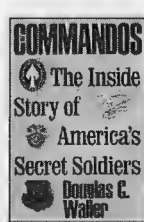
1107 \$14.95x



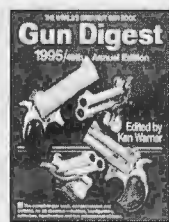
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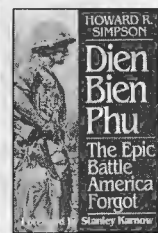
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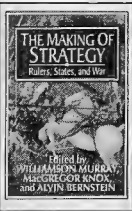
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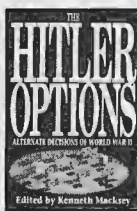
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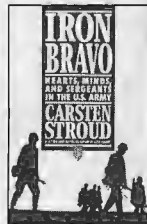
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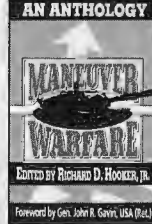
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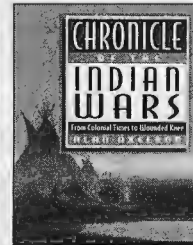
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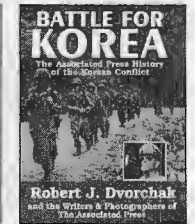
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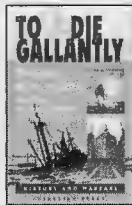
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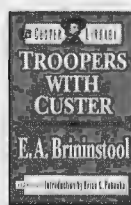
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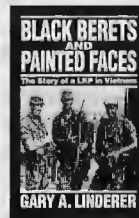
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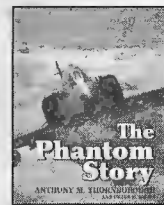
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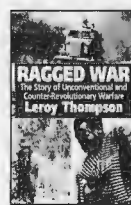
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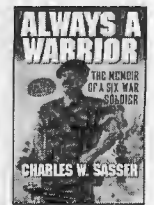
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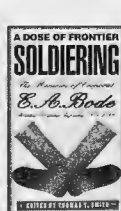
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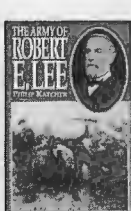
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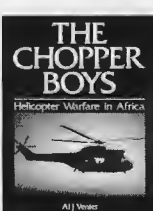
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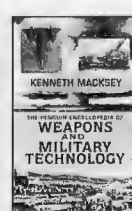
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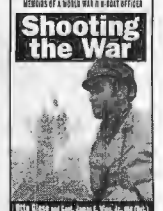
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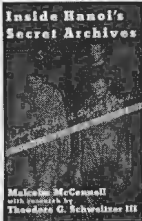
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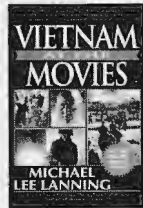
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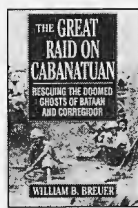
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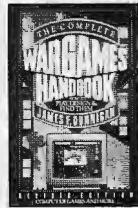
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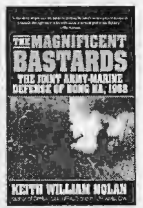
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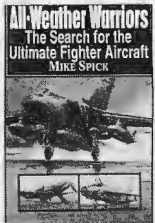
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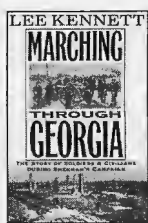
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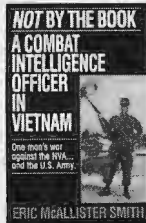
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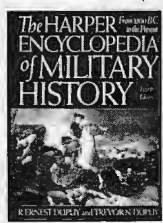
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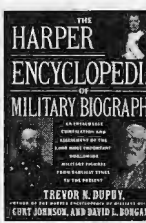
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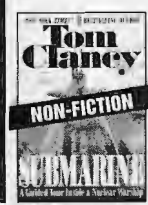
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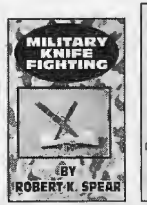
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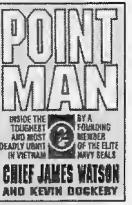
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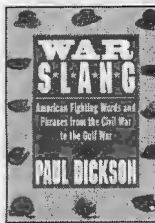
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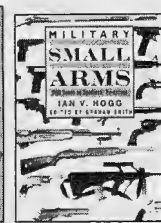
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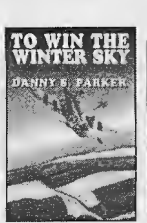
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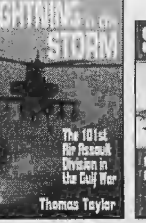
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Only Clean Rifles Are Interesting

by Gabriel Suarez

Colonel Townsend Whelen, the grand old man of American riflery, summed it up best when he wrote, "Only accurate rifles are interesting." At the heart of any rifle's accuracy potential is its barrel. Proper care and break-in will maintain a caliber 7.62x51mm NATO barrel's accuracy into the 5,000 round range, but neglect can turn the most accurate, and expensive, rifle into a scatter-gun.

On this topic, snipers

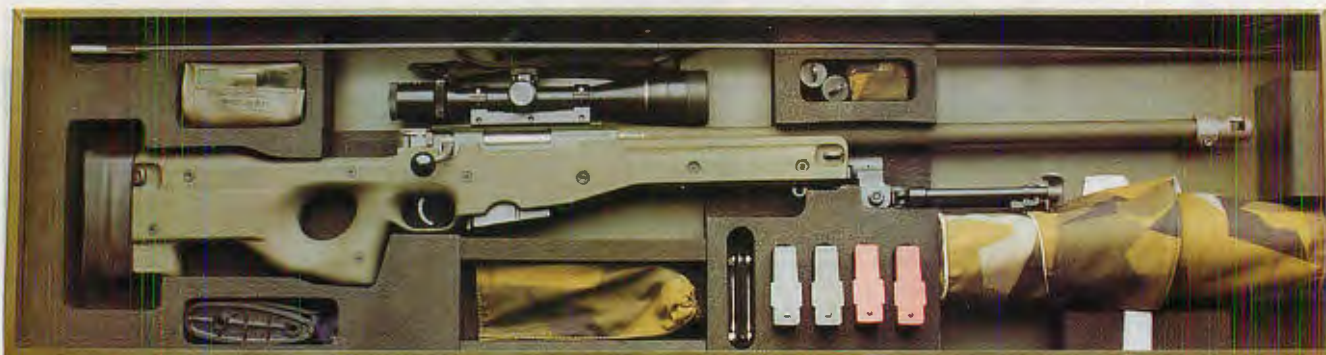
as well. The breaking-in process involves firing a moderate number of rounds, which might also be used to establish a rough zero.

A sniper rifle is a precision instrument that requires specific tools for maintenance. There are three types of fouling to remove from the bore: powder fouling, products of primer combustion and copper fouling. Powder fouling is residue from propellants and can be removed with any of the

cleaning rod and a bore guide to center that rod in the bore. Both items are important: Using the bore guide ensures that the cleaning rod remains centered in the bore and will not favor one sector over another, and the nylon coating on the rod ensures it will not mar the crucial rifling at the muzzle. Also needed are bronze bore brushes, a bronze jag tip, and plenty of cleaning patches. Bronze brushes are important because stainless steel brushes

Use a bronze brush and petroleum-based solvent if necessary. When a dry patch comes through clean, fire the first round through the new, clean and cold barrel. Open the bolt and let the barrel cool. Swabbing the bore with Shooter's Choice or another powder solvent is next. Brush out the bore with a bronze brush and follow with alternating wet and dry patches until they come out clean.

This will remove pow-



A state-of-the-art, dedicated instrument such as this AW sniper weapon system is dependent on the condition of the rifle bore for its accuracy. AW/AWP rifles include Parker-Hale synthetic-covered rod and chamber guide, bronze brush and jag tips, and Break Free CLP lubricant/cleaner as standard issue. Photo: Accuracy International Ltd.

can learn much from benchrest and varmint shooters. Although their targets differ, they are specialists in the "one-hole group" and have developed practical methods in the pursuit and preservation of accuracy. One of their practical developments is the procedure for "breaking in" a new barrel. Older rifles may benefit from the protocol

popular powder solvents on the market, such as Shooter's Choice or Hoppe's No. 9. Copper fouling is deposited by copper bullet jackets as they go through the bore. If not removed, copper fouling can degrade accuracy considerably.

To apply and remove solvents, and the residue they free, one will need a one-piece nylon-coated

may scratch the bore. Bronze brushes may not last as long as stainless, but brushes are cheap — lives lost due to missed shots are not.

Begin by swabbing the barrel clear of any storage grease or preservative. Whenever possible, insert the cleaning rod from the chamber end only, using a bore guide in order to protect the muzzle

der residue but not any copper deposits, so swab the bore with a patch soaked in a copper-removing solvent such as Sweet's 7.62 or Hoppe's Bench Rest 9 Copper Solvent. This done, let the Sweet's remain in the bore for at least 10 minutes to work chemically on the copper deposits, then follow up with alternating wet and dry patches of

Sweet's until they also come out clean. Use only a patch or a bristle brush with the Sweet's, because its ammonia base will also dissolve bronze bristles. Sweet's will also attack synthetic and wood stocks.

From the clean, dry bore, fire a second round and repeat the above process. Do this for a total of five rounds. This allows the bullets to ride on bare steel every time they travel down the bore and not on powder or copper residue; it will burnish the bore. As the process continues you will find less and less fouling with every subsequent shot fired, because the bullets are actually removing microscopic burrs and irregularities present in a new barrel. If left, these burrs and irregularities tend to collect and hold fouling and copper residue. With these gone, the bullet has a clearer and cleaner path through the bore, thereby increasing the accuracy potential.

After firing the initial five rounds and completing the subsequent cleaning, a string of three consecutive shots is fired, followed by a cleaning after the third shot. Repeat this for a total of three to five strings (nine to 15 rounds). The entire process is readily accomplished in an afternoon.

Two things that contribute greatly to barrel wear and the subsequent deterioration of a rifle's accuracy are heat and dirt. Therefore along with a proper breaking-in, one must follow proper barrel maintenance during training. I clean the barrel to bare metal every 10 shots during training.

After every 10 rounds I open the bolt and let the bore cool, then swab the bore with Shooter's Choice bore cleaner until the patches come out clean. Then I brush out the bore with a bronze brush one time for every shot, rewetting the bore with solvent every five strokes. I again swab out the bore with solvent, alternating wet and dry patches until they come out clean. This removes all the powder fouling.

The next step is to swab out the bore with Sweet's 7.62 and let it remain in the bore for several

Continued on page 68

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ATF WATCH

ATF's Shadow Air Force

by James L. Pate

Does the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms now have its own air force? According to ATF spokesman Les Stanford, the bureau has recently obtained 22 OV-10 Broncos from the Department of Defense, "not all of them operational." Asked how many of the Rockwell-manufactured units are airworthy, where they are based and how they are registered, Stanford told me to go file a Freedom of Information Act request. That's bureaucratic code, meaning "Go file a flight plan," or (choose one) "Go take a flying..." (a) lesson, (b) leap, (c) libidinous liaison.

Asked why ATF needs a two-seater counterinsurgency aircraft, Stanford—calling on more than 20 years of police savvy—said, "We'll just use them to do law enforcement stuff." No shit, Sherlock? Boy, howdy! It has been widely alleged that BATF is a law enforcement agency. The emphasis is on force, of course. Other operational details, such as the law, or the safety of innocent bystanders, many times seem secondary.

Why a bunch of trigger-happy Rambos and Bubbas should have offensive close-air-support weapons is a question of grave concern to anyone who cares about public safety. The D-model OV-10, which is what we're talking about here, is the night observation system

(NOS) version, according to *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*. Able to slowly circle and focus sharply on a target for extended periods, the Bronco NOS is useful for aerial surveillance. The D also has upgraded twin turboprop engines and wing drop tanks for greater speed and range.

But what about the other extras on the OV-10Ds obtained for the ATF air force? According to military aviation experts who inspected three of the distinctive-looking, twin-tail airplanes, the firearms agents' new toys are factory-equipped to mount a 20mm gun turret under the rear fuselage. They have all the other "hard points" necessary for mounting rocket pods and other ordnance that make the aircraft a formidable counterinsurgency weapons platform. Does this mean the ATF is expecting some sort of widespread insurgency? Maybe it's contingency preparation, in case they have to strafe another church full of women and children.

The eyewitnesses say the ATF OV-10Ds they inspected also are equipped with gun sights, ground-mapping radar, forward-looking infrared radar (FLIR) and a laser target designator in the FLIR turret. The hard points have a capacity for 600-pound weapons payloads under each wing and another 1,200 pounds of ordnance under the fuselage.

Two of the aircraft re-

ceived sheet metal and wiring work and a \$20,000 red-white-and-blue paint job in late June in Shawnee, Oklahoma, aviation sources told *SOF*. Another with a similar paint scheme was inspected in Nashville, Tennessee. Others are believed to be based in Houston, California, and near Washington, D.C. The sources raised questions about whether the painting bids were being placed through legal channels, or had been "short-circuited" to cut down the telltale paperwork. *SOF* can't tell you—yet—because the ATF won't say. But here is what we do know as of this writing in early July.

Local aviation sources said that both of the aircraft in Oklahoma and the one seen in Tennessee belong to ATF. But the trail grew more mysterious when *SOF* checked the tail numbers of the two OV-10Ds in Oklahoma with the Federal Aviation Administration. Those aircraft—N471AW and N475AW—are registered to American Warbirds Inc. of 5-1 Metropolitan Court, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The address, located in suburban Washington, D.C., is at the dead end of an industrial park cul-de-sac and not located near an airport.

American Warbirds Inc. has no phone number listed with directory assistance and a Gaithersburg airport spokesman had never heard of the company. It is not incorporated in Maryland, Delaware or the District of Columbia, a records

check indicates. Nor has it filed the required qualification paperwork to legally do business in Maryland, a spokesman for the Secretary of State's office told *SOF*. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

Another check with the FAA registry revealed that tail numbers N471AW through N477AW—all OV-10Ds—are assigned to American Warbirds Inc. N470AW is assigned to another type of aircraft belonging to a private individual. Wing numbers N478AW, N479AW, etc. are not assigned, an FAA spokesman said.

Despite ATF's reluctance to provide any detail, sources tell *SOF* that 12 of the OV-10Ds are operational and the remaining 10 are used for spare parts. If that's true, and N471AW through N477AW are all ATF aircraft, where are the other five operational Broncos? Ah, the mystery deepens.

The OV-10D seen in Tennessee has tail number N439AW. Again, local aviation sources identified it as a BATF aircraft, and the alpha-whiskey suffix, when compared to the other known OV-10s, suggests the Tennessee aircraft might also belong to the elusive American Warbirds Inc. But a check with the FAA registry indicates that this specific tail number is *not* assigned. This reminded *SOF* of the license tag number on the

Continued on page 87

Learn To Fight Like A Navy SEAL!

This Elite Hand-to-Hand Combat System Used by the Navy SEALs Can Turn You Into The Invincible Street-Fighter You've Always Wanted To Be!

Now, for the first time ever, the same fighting techniques from the *actual* "SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course" are being revealed to civilians who want to possess some of *the most powerful self-defense skills known to man...* taught to you by Seal Team Member FRANK CUCCI — the same man who teaches this system to the Navy SEALs!

by Bob Taylor, Defense Training Specialist

It's true! Now you can learn the exact same hand-to-hand (unarmed) combat system used by the elite Navy SEALs!

This is the *actual* "SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course" that has helped enable the SEALs to emerge victorious from *hundreds* of deadly, real-life combat situations — and has helped them earn their revered status as the best-trained fighting men in the world!

The man who developed this amazingly powerful martial arts system for the SEALs is **Frank Cucci**. Himself a former member of the legendary **SEAL Team Six**, Mr. Cucci has recently decided — for reasons of guaranteeing public safety — to reveal to the U.S. civilian population the highly-effective hand-to-hand fighting system that (until now) he has taught *exclusively* to the Navy SEALs!

Mr. Cucci (a life-long expert in the martial arts and a Navy SEAL for 12 years) is free to teach his unique system to the public because he is no longer on active service duty with the SEALs. This means that, *for the first time ever, civilians can learn to defend themselves on the streets as effectively as if they had been trained for jungle warfare!*

And let's face it...

It IS a jungle out there!

No matter where you are, in broad daylight or in the thick of night, **YOU ARE THE**

TARGET for an increasingly vicious, drug-crazed criminal element that thinks nothing of killing, robbing, raping, and terrorizing innocent people — mostly for money, but sometimes for the sick "pleasure" they get out of it!

I don't know anyone who would feel 100% safe walking the Big City streets these days. But imagine how much safer *you* would feel if you knew what the combat-toughened Navy SEALs know about hand-to-hand fighting!

Fortunately for you and your loved ones, **now you can!**

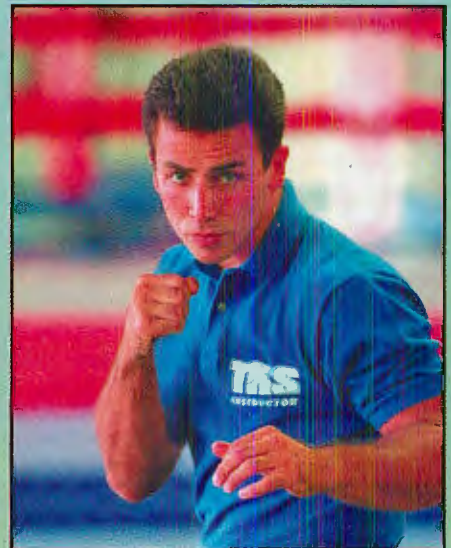
In this amazing new 2-hour video produced by Tactical Response Solutions, Frank Cucci will teach you the same incredibly effective fighting skills he teaches the Navy SEALs. After just a few lessons, you can possess the awe-inspiring confidence of a Navy SEAL. Plus you'll "have what it takes" to emerge victorious from deadly hostile situations!

And the best part is...

**This system is simple,
easy to learn,
easy to remember, and
(above all) highly effective!**

Once you see this explosive fighting system in action, you'll immediately realize why it will make you a "natural" at down-and-dirty street fighting.

It was designed with the most intense jungle



Frank Cucci — Former SEAL Team member and developer of the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course.

warfare in mind, where *everything* can get screwed up at a moment's notice!

You see, the SEALs are often forced to fight even though they're starving, dehydrated, have just swam two miles in the ocean with a full pack on their backs, crawled or ran through mud or sand for another two miles, and then (not uncommonly) caught without even a knife to defend themselves with!

The only fighting system that would work

under *those* conditions would be one that's simple, easy to use, easy to remember, *and as deadly as a machine gun!* And that's the system designed for the SEALs by Frank Cucci and now revealed to you for the first time on Frank's new video!

Here's what you'll learn!

Right from the start, Frank gives you a simple set of techniques that you can confidently rely on *no matter what situation you find yourself in!*

From aggressive kicks and punches to defensive blocks and take-downs, you'll discover what are *really* the most potent (and the most natural) moves to make with your bodily weapons. For instance...

- ◆ Use *this* little-known defensive stance to make sure your body is *never* vulnerable!
- ◆ How to be *instantly* prepared for a fight at any moment, especially when everyone else is taken off guard!
- ◆ Efficient, economical punches that pack the wallop of a .44 Magnum!
- ◆ A *deadly mistake* most people make when they throw a punch!
- ◆ How to put together the *right moves* that the SEALs have found are the *key* to survival in a fight!
- ◆ The most practical (and most *devastating*) tool for short-range fighting. You'll be amazed at how easy it is!
- ◆ "Punishing" blows that will disorient your opponent and allow you to finish him off!
- ◆ How to end a fight *before* it even starts!
- ◆ The 5 *key* elements to winning *any* street fight!
- ◆ How to blow an opponent back with *one simple move*, giving you time to regroup or move in and deliver *your* attack!
- ◆ How to eliminate all vulnerability to your head in one easy step!
- ◆ The bottom-line "secret" of effective combat that *not one guy in a thousand* truly understands or appreciates!
- ◆ The essential factor that will determine *who wins* in 8 out of 10 combat situations!
- ◆ How to use defensive moves to set up the most devastating *offensive* attacks!
- ◆ How to quickly and easily neutralize *any* punch or jab your opponent throws at you!
- ◆ A dangerous mistake most people make

with their *eyes* when fighting — and how to avoid it!

- ◆ The right way to *breathe* during a fight so you can keep on fighting your strongest!
- ◆ How to take advantage of your *natural body mechanics* to deliver the most effective blows!
- ◆ The simple (but highly-overlooked) key to making your practice sessions *pay off* in real life!
- ◆ An amazing leg technique for blocking an opponent's advance and then *letting him have it!*
- ◆ How to defend yourself against high kicks *without* exposing yourself elsewhere!
- ◆ Where to kick your opponent to make him numb, nauseous, and *begging for mercy!* (No, it's *not* the groin!)
- ◆ A simple but devastating technique that can get you out of *any* tough situation—*FAST!* (Use this "sure thing" strike *especially* if your opponent is bigger and stronger than you, or if you're simply out-numbered!)
- ◆ A *nasty* "no-brainer" combination that will immediately give you the upper hand in *any* fight!
- ◆ When all else fails, use *this* highly effective move — especially in life-or-death situations!
- ◆ How to manipulate your opponent's body in preparation for a *lightning-fast take-down!*
- ◆ How to cut off your enemy's air flow or blood supply and cause *unconsciousness* when grappling on the ground!
- ◆ What to do if you get thrown on the ground by surprise and your opponent jumps on top of you!
- ◆ The right and the wrong ways to defend yourself against *multiple attackers!*

Sound good so far? You bet! And I've only touched the surface!

In one of the most exciting segments of this 2-hour video, Frank Cucci teaches you the most effective ways of fighting against someone with a *stick, club, or knife!* You'll learn defensive moves. Offensive moves. Proper footwork. Combinations. How to *improvise* a weapon. And most importantly, **HOW TO WIN** when faced with such a deadly attack!

I could go on, but I think you get the point:

This video is *packed* with the most intense fighting techniques known to man — all of which have been proven successful by the Navy SEALs in real-life, cut-throat combat missions around the world.

Listen: If the SEALs can use this fighting system to defeat the kinds of enemies *they* face, think of what it can do for you!

Better than being there!

Can you really learn this fighting system by watching a *video*? In *this* case, **YES!**

In this high-quality video, you get not just one, not just two, but **three** different camera angles to view Frank's techniques! The producers spared no expense. They wanted you to be able to watch this video and learn to fight as well as if you were there in Frank's dojo, watching him move on the mat.

You'll even see the moves in *slow motion* — something you can't get in real life! (Not to mention the ability with your VCR to see things *over and over again* until they become *ingrained* into your subconscious!)

And you'll especially appreciate how each move is *thoroughly and painstakingly* explained by Frank. His years of experience using this system and teaching it to the Navy SEALs has given him the ability to make it "clear as a bell" to anyone watching it for the first time — even to people who previously knew nothing about the martial arts!

Plus, once Frank has finished teaching you a particular group of moves, you'll see him *use* those moves in highly instructive "free form" training sessions with his partner. By imitating his smooth, fluid moves in your own practice sessions, you'll be making a "quantum leap" in your fighting ability.

Without exaggeration, you'll accomplish in a few practice sessions what it takes most martial artists *years* to learn!

Too powerful to abuse!

You're going to *love* this videotape. I guarantee it. And I dare say that, after watching it, you might even be a little bit *too* self-confident!

It's *that* powerful. And the fighting techniques it teaches you are so simple and yet so forceful, you'll feel unstoppable.

But please, use them prudently and wisely. Don't go out there looking for trouble. If it comes your way, you'll be more than adequately prepared for it. But don't think you have to "prove" to anybody how invincible you are now.

That's *not* the reason Frank is letting you have this well-guarded knowledge. He's only doing it because he knows how dangerous the streets are today, and he doesn't like seeing

good people like you get victimized by "domestic enemies."

If you have any vendettas or scores to settle, leave them at the door when you watch this video. Otherwise you could get into some very serious legal trouble for improper use of martial arts. These fighting methods are only to be used when your life or physical well-being are in *imminent danger*—and for no other reason! (They're just too deadly otherwise.)

That being said, let me explain how Frank Cucci developed the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course (and why it's so powerful)...

3 of the most-lethal fighting systems in the world, combined into one!

"The SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course" is actually Frank's own specially-designed combination of Thai kick-boxing, Filipino martial arts, and Bruce Lee's street-fighting system: Jeet Kune Do.

"I don't think I need to remind you: *IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!* But now, for the first time ever, civilians can learn to defend themselves as effectively as if they had been trained for *actual* jungle warfare — *straight from a Navy SEAL!*"

These Oriental fighting styles are purely for *combat*, not for sport. As such, they transcend anything else known to man. Once mastered, they make every part of your body a *lethal weapon*.

And best of all, Frank learned these styles from their greatest living masters...

The legendary **Dan Inosanto** — who was Bruce Lee's training partner for 9 years and one of only *three* people ever granted "Instructor" status by Bruce Lee — is Frank's "guru" for Jeet Kune Do *and* the highly-potent Filipino martial arts.

For his Thai kick-boxing training, Frank studied under **Master Chai Sirisute**, President of the Thai Boxing Association of America.

And now *you* will be able to study under the same man who *developed* this course and taught it to the Navy SEALs!

Indeed, there is no better instructor than Frank Cucci to learn from. And the moment you see him in action, you'll realize why the SEALs picked him as *their* instructor.

Frank has been practicing the martial arts for 16 years. During his 12 years as a member of the SEAL Team, his numerous combat missions helped him hone his hand-to-hand

fighting system to a fine precision.

When the SEALs would come back from a mission, Frank would work with them to evaluate what worked and what *didn't* work in real-life combat. That which worked was studied deeper, and perfected. That which didn't work was tossed out.

So now you get to benefit from over a *decade* of the SEALs' hard-learned lessons and tried-and-proven fighting techniques, all rolled up into the most efficient method possible for teaching this military-level system to civilians!

Simple + Efficient = Easy to Learn!

Frank has taken the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course that he teaches the SEALs and boiled it down into a tightly edited, power-packed 2-hour video.

To be honest with you, it even surprised *me* that his system could be so effectively taught

by video. But I've seen people with *no* prior knowledge of martial arts watch this video, devote a few hours of practice to the techniques they learned, and quickly become proficient at these astonishingly overpowering moves.

In fact, *simplicity* and *efficiency* are the hallmarks of the SEAL Team Course. Perhaps that's what makes it so accessible to the "average" civilian.

But if *you* have any prior experience with the martial arts, you're going to *love* how fast you master this system and become the warrior you've always wanted to be.

Plus, unlike other martial arts styles, the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course is designed to be eminently practical in real-life combat situations — whether you're in the jungles of Nam or in the parking lot of a 24-hour restaurant.

There's no special equipment or weaponry needed. No patterns or sets to memorize. No complicated moves. All you need is your God-given body and the determination to win any hostile confrontation, and this system will serve you *very* well.

But don't just take my word for all of this. Listen to what these veteran soldiers and law

enforcement officers have to say after using Frank Cucci's SEAL Team fighting system in real life situations...

Recommended by Soldiers and Cops Alike!

"Training with Frank Cucci has given me the ability to defend myself with both empty hand techniques and weapons. This training has given me the confidence to handle aggressive people in a variety of different situations and ranges."

James Matthews, Ret. Navy SEAL

"I'm an ex-special operations soldier trained in Shotokan Karate, Tai Kwan Do and American boxing. Frank's system is by far the best and most effective fight training I've ever had... and I've had occasion to use it to win at least one violent encounter in civilian life."

Vance Richmond, Ex-DELTA Team Member

"The Training provided by Mr. Cucci is not only unique in its extreme effectiveness, but also in its simplicity and adaptability. It was this training that was crucial to my surviving an encounter against a mentally disturbed person armed with a large butcher knife."

Tony Torres, Police Officer

"I can judge fighting systems because I've been in more than a few serious scraps myself. This is not fluff. I definitely want Frank and his knowledge on my side in any tough spot."

Steve Falkner, Wing Ching Instructor, Virginia

What can I say about Frank Cucci. He is nothing but the truth. What an instructor! If I ran into (Frank Cucci) in a dark alley, I'd kill myself and save him the pleasure and practice!"

Lennie Hyde, Law Enforcement Armorer, DC

Still skeptical? Don't be! We at Tactical Response Solutions are putting all the risk on *our* shoulders so you don't have to worry about being disappointed. You see, we're willing to give you...

The Most Honorable Guarantee Possible: Take 3 months to decide!

Simply stated, it's this: If you watch this video and you're not completely "blown away" by the martial arts system it teaches you...

If you practice the techniques you learn from Frank Cucci and **90 days later** you're *still* not convinced that the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course is one of the best systems you've ever seen or heard of...

...then I want you to stick the two video tapes and the Manual that comes with them *back* into the box and send everything back to Tactical Response Solutions for a full and complete refund of every penny you paid. No

questions asked, and no hard feelings either.

After all, *you* are the judge of whether or not the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course is right for you. A fighting system has to be personal and unique, and if this one doesn't fit into your style or psyche or whatever the case may be, we do not feel you should have to pay for something you can't use.

What can be more fair than that?

And of course, with a 3-month guarantee like ours, you have no reason *not* to at least give Frank Cucci's video a try.

Let me tell you: I've been training elite military soldiers, cops, and high-risk security agents for 24 years, and I've never been more impressed with a fighting method than I am with the SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course. So I'm betting you *don't* ask for a refund.

But even so, you take *no risk* whatsoever. We want you to be completely satisfied, or you don't pay a dime.

I mentioned the Manual. Yes, there's a 48-page *illustrated* Manual that comes with the video package. Written by Frank, it walks you through his system and carefully explains every move, every principle of action, and even a few things *not* to do.

I think you'll find it indispensable. I sure did.

Order now and get a FREE Special Report on "Hand-Launched Weapons"!

Plus, if you order Frank's video within the next 10 days, we will also send you *free of charge* a brand-new Special Report I've written. It's all about "Hand-Launched Weapons" and it teaches you an incredibly powerful "throwing" technique that turns virtually any object into a lethal projectile!

You know, these days you have to be pre-

pared for *anything* to happen at *any* moment. You can be caught off guard and forced to defend your life (or someone else's life) when you least expect it.

In situations like that, *the element of surprise* is the key to victory. Combine that with the ability to take anything within arm's reach and *nail* your opponent from up to 16 feet away, and you'll never have to fear a hostile situation again!

I've taught this technique to SpecOp soldiers, federal agents, undercover drug agents, and high-risk bodyguards — who are often restricted by circumstances from using their guns, but need a reliable way to drop a man in his tracks at a distance. And it works every time.

For the average person on the streets who doesn't carry a gun, this Special Report is worth its weight in gold. But it's yours **FREE** when you order Frank Cucci's video!

So I won't say another word. Pick up the phone right now and call this number...

1-800-899-8153

(Ask for Dept. UC-14)

Have your VISA or MasterCard ready and ask for Frank Cucci's video, "The SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course." The price for everything — two hours worth of video tapes and the 48-page illustrated Training Manual — is only \$97. Period. You don't even pay the regular shipping charge. We pay it for you.

The video is shipped out the very next day after we receive your order. If you're in a hurry, we can ship by 2-Day Air for \$4 extra, or even Overnight Express for \$15 extra.

Either way, you'll have it in your hands a

few days from now, and you'll be able to possess the most powerful self-defense skills known to man — just like the SEALs do!

Fight Like a SEAL!

Due to their elite training, Navy SEALs **rightly** feel they're something special ... like they can do anything in the world — and they practically *can!*

After you're trained by SEAL Team member Frank Cucci, there's a strong possibility that *you'll* have that same feeling. That same "fire in the gut" that makes a SEAL what he is.

I can't promise you'll be penetrating Saddam Hussein's headquarters next month, but I know you'll be more confident than ever of winning a fight on the street ... and helping your loved ones escape unharmed.

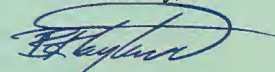
One thing I've noticed about the SEALs: "Quit" is not a part of their vocabulary. Nor is "fear." And after mastering this system, you probably won't use those words anymore, either.

It takes a special set of skills to be a SEAL. If you watch this video and practice the fighting system it teaches you, you'll have the same skills they have.

And when the day comes that you have to use them, you'll be a hero in *everyone's* eyes. But especially your own.

Order your copy today.

Sincerely,



Bob Taylor,

P.S. I don't think I need to remind you: **IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!**

But now, for the first time ever, civilians can learn to defend themselves as effectively as if they had been trained for *actual* jungle warfare — *straight from a Navy SEAL!*

With Frank Cucci's video, you'll learn the exact same hand-to-hand combat system used by the Navy SEALs — the most elite, most effective fighting unit in the U.S. military. This system is amazingly simple and easy to learn, and it will make you *invincible* if you are ever attacked or assaulted by "hostile forces."

Order Frank's video today and take **THREE MONTHS** to decide if it's really right for you or not. If it's not, you can get 100% of your money back — no questions asked. **Plus you get to keep the Free Special Report on Hand-Launched Weapons**, even if you ask for a refund.

We can't be any fairer than that — and you won't find a more *powerful* fighting system than this one used by the Navy SEALs.

Use it...and WIN!

For The Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE

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Priority Order Form For SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Readers Only!

YES! I have decided that I want to push my fighting ability as far as it can go—therefore, please RUSH me the Frank Cucci video tape-plus-manual package, "**SEAL Team Unarmed Combat Course**". I understand this package will teach me everything I need to know to master this super-effective fighting style. I also understand that I have a completely "No-Hassle" No-Risk Money-Back Guarantee.

By initialing this line, I am stating that I am over 18 years of age and that I have never been convicted of a felony. I also state that I will use the information contained in this video package in a defensive situation only. I accept sole responsibility for my actions as an adult.

- I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS) for \$97. Please rush my materials to:
- Visa MasterCard
- American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Name: _____

Expires: _____ Address: _____

Signature _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

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CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$4 for "2-Day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping. Foreign orders may require additional shipping. Call (209) 732-5537 for information.

I WAS THERE

Mad Minute From LCM

by Steven C. Schreiner

In June of 1968, I was an infantry platoon leader with Company C, 3/7 Infantry, 199th LIB, operating from the southern end of Saigon. We conducted a variety of mobile operations, including company-size cordon and search missions, area sweeps and air mobile operations. Particularly memorable, though, was my platoon's first riverine operation near the Nha-Be refinery.

Our four-boat flotilla consisted of one monitor — a ship equipped with a 40mm gun turret, which made it look like a miniature river-going destroyer — and three Landing Crafts, Matériel (LCMs). LCMs had a drop-ramp and front loading capability, just like the beach assault boats of World War II. The cargo bays, big enough to hold an M113 armored personnel carrier with room left over, carried two infantry platoons. The LCM to which I was assigned also had a steel and wood superstructure that formed a helicopter landing deck. It looked like a riverine-size aircraft carrier.

After a morning of relatively uneventful company-level sweeps, we reboarded our LCMs and proceeded upriver. By this time it was late afternoon and the tide was running out, dropping the water level in the river dramatically and revealing 20-foot deep mudbanks.

Suddenly, there was a long *whooshing* sound, fol-

lowed by a loud *bang* as the LCM to my rear took a rocket-propelled grenade in the engine room just above the water line. Small arms fire erupted from the jungle. Our Vietnamese boat pilots immediately began a reactive maneuver — spinning the crafts like magnetic compass needles. The ships' twin engines and screws made this the most effective defensive maneuver possible in the confined space of the river.

The company command group was up on the helicopter deck when the ambush started. Initiating a counterattack when he awoke to gunfire, our FO jumped to his feet, and, seeing that he was within throwing distance of the shoreline, had the presence of mind to toss two grenades into the jungle. He apparently hit the mark as one VC fell out of the jungle and into the mud. The FO then went to work calling for smoke to range in our position. He quickly corrected the fire and fired for effect.

I was below deck under the helipad but could observe and hear the fight on both sides of the LCM while it spun around. As the pilots continued this maneuver, we were easy targets. I knew we had to return fire if we wanted to survive and began shouting for each platoon to line up on both gunwales and prepare to fire on my command. I felt like John

Paul Jones trying to keep everyone from rushing to the side of the ship that was taking fire.

As each side of the boat came to bear on the tree line, I motioned with my arms and yelled, "Fire!" Once it turned away I ordered: "Cease fire. Reload." As the opposite side came about, I repeated the commands. Meanwhile, the platoon sergeants and squad leaders were able to direct fire on visible targets, urging everyone to switch to aimed, semiautomatic fire. Teamwork, fire control and discipline were close and precise.

The other ships were also executing defensive maneuvers, but their infantry were disorganized and unable to effectively return fire. Once they saw what we were doing, however, they quickly caught on. It looked like we had a chance to make it out alive.

The firefight quickly intensified with all ships engaging the enemy. My M16A1 was so hot I could

only hold on to the fresh 20-round magazine I inserted each time the port side came to bear. My trigger finger was burned from prolonged firing.

I then saw the monitor's gun turret swing into action and fire at the base of a palm tree. The HE shell exploded, knocking over the tree. A VC sniper, apparently hiding in the treetop, took a dive into the water. The monitor's .50 caliber machine guns soon opened up, adding to the terrible racket.

That gave me an idea. There was a .50 caliber machine gun in the crow's nest on my boat. I had no sooner realized no one was manning it when my platoon sergeant wanted to know if there was anything else he could do. We needed to get every weapon we had up and firing. First, I told him to get our two 90mm recoilless rifles topside where they could fire. Down below their backblast made them unusable, but above

Continued on page 84



VC ambush on riverine flotilla had Army grunts firing "broad-sides" and hitting the "beach" south of Saigon. Photo: DoD

16th

ANNUAL

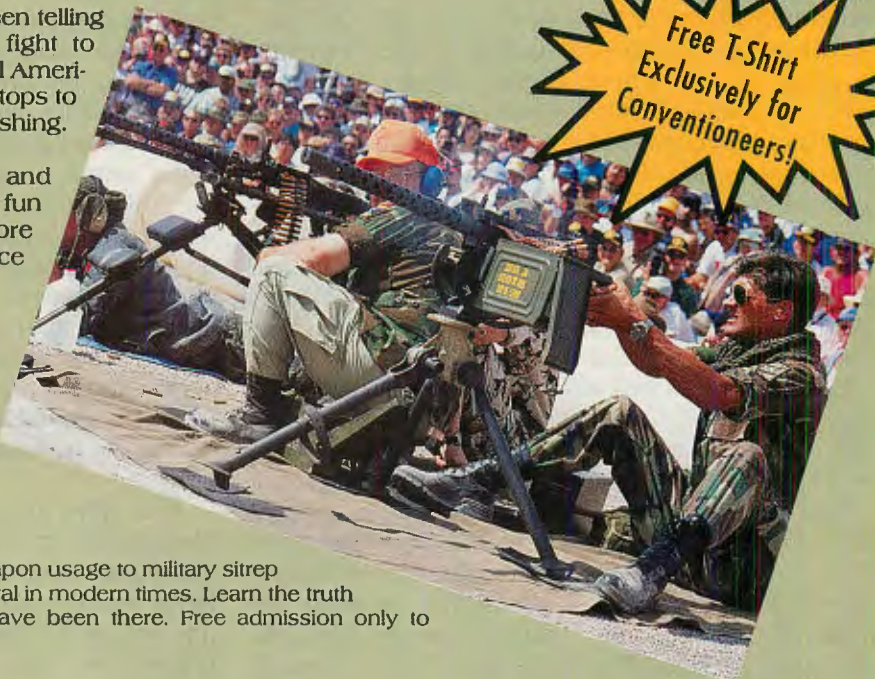
SOLDIER OF FORTUNE CONVENTION



SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 1995 · SANDS HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Since 1975 *Soldier of Fortune* has been telling it like it is and fighting the good fight to preserve the constitutional rights of all Americans. Now *SOF* is pulling out all the stops to celebrate its 20th Anniversary of publishing.

And you're invited! Join the staff and your comrades-in-arms for 5 days of fun and good times in Las Vegas. It's more than just a big party, it's also a chance to see, learn and do ...



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and other competitive matches. Get in shape now so you can compete for cash prizes. Your body will thank you — so might your wallet.



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Topics ranging from combat weapon usage to military sitrep reviews, police tactics and survival in modern times. Learn the truth firsthand from the men who have been there. Free admission only to registered conventioneers.



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Check out the latest in weaponry, ammo and other merchandise from over 400 exhibitors. Runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free admission to registered conventioneers.



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An awesome display of firepower caps off an action-packed day at the range: team shoot-offs, manufacturers' new-product demos, skydiving, big guns & explosives. All day Saturday — free to conventioneers.



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Saturday night Awards ceremony features insightful speakers and savory cuisine. Casual or mess dress.

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- Early bird registration \$150. \$175 after Aug. 31, 1995.
- First 500 conventioneers will receive a 16th Anniversary commemorative pin.
- Twenty names will be drawn from first 500 conventioneers — winners join Robert K. Brown and John Donovan for brunch.

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Remember each conventioneer and match participant receives a banquet ticket as part of their package.

A limited number of additional tickets will be available at \$50 each. These will go fast. If you want additional tickets, send check or money order to: SOF Banquet, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306-0693 or call 1-800-800-7630 to charge by credit card (MC or Visa).

A card will be sent to confirm receipt. Bring this card to the registration area at the Sands Convention Center to pick up your extra banquet tickets.

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Yes! I want to be a part of the 1995 Convention

\$150.00 check or money order enclosed.

**Full refund by 7/1/95 Half refund by 8/15/95
No refund after 8/15/95**

Charge \$ _____ to my MasterCard Visa

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HELPING HAND FOR HATHCOCK

Your Command Guidance, "93 Kills, 0 Awards," in the May '95 issue was right on target. I think it's disgraceful that Gunny Hathcock has never been recognized for what he did for this country in Vietnam.

I know Carlos Hathcock personally and it would break your heart to see what he has been reduced to because of his injuries and MS. I talked to his wife Jo this morning and Gunny is lying in a V.A. hospital in Hampton, Virginia, in bad shape. He has a high temperature and pneumonia. I'm hopeful that his condition will soon improve.

It's a disgrace that the Navy Department has never recognized Gunny Hathcock for his deeds.

Conley Bagby
Siloam Springs,
Arkansas

Where the Navy failed, the private sector is stepping in. Gunny's friends in Virginia and the Virginia Gun Collectors Association have gotten together to organize a raffle to benefit Carlos. The prize is a custom-built Remington .308 with Redfield sniper scope like Hathcock used in Vietnam. Raffle drawing is on 15 December and tickets are only \$2 each. Information is available from: Carlos Hathcock Fund, 18759 Fuller Heights Road, Triangle, VA 22172; phone: 703-221-3030.

SOF will be running a short feature on this topic in an upcoming issue.

THE PROBLEMS WITH MILITIAS

It seems to me that just because a militia is a "private" organization does not mean that it is illegal ("Join a Militia, Break the Law?" April '95). The Michigan Militia may not have the constitutional protection that the Michigan Emergency Volunteers enjoy, but that does not necessarily make them outlaws — unless Michigan has, or passes, laws similar to those of Oregon and California which ban "paramilitary gatherings."

As for the article, "A Well-Regulated and Legal Militia" (May '95), I believe the author, "General" Haggard, missed the point. If the Constitution says — as it does — that "The Congress shall have the power ... to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia ...

reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress ..." (Article I, Section 8), then I would suggest that it takes more than securing nonprofit status from the IRS, declaring oneself a general and proclaiming one's "God-given right" to start a militia under the meaning of the Constitution.

It seems the biggest problem the militia movement has is just this — they come off sounding like a bunch of right-wing Christian fundamentalists and/or neo-Nazis and/or conspiracy theorists. Get a bunch of militia members on a daytime talk show and Phil/Oprah/Geraldo will ignore the black lawyer and concentrate on the born-again redneck with Hitleresque leanings.

Sarge
Detroit, Michigan

WE'RE ALL TO BLAME FOR WACO

I am writing you in response to your article "Untouchables Come Clean?" (June '95). I'm in no way supporting the BATF's actions at Waco or other incidents. But the fact is, there are too many career-minded people in all government agencies who know the mistakes being made and by whom, but are unwilling to put their own careers on the line to save innocent lives.

As to the letter in the article criticizing the selection criteria for the SRTs, there is no doubt that incompetence runs thick in the agency's ranks. But the fact that two of the four agents killed had only three years of experience is no excuse for said incompetence. If a man can't learn a job in three years he doesn't need it.

There is no doubt that those who were there and

Continued on page 80



How to Snatch a Loaded Gun Out of a Criminal's Hands Without Getting Shot —

**Even If He's Got the Gun at Your Head...
and He's Ready to Pull the Trigger!**

These amazing Gun Disarmament secrets are so effective, some law-enforcement officials wish we wouldn't reveal them to the public!

Dear Friend and Fellow Civilian,

Most people would turn to jelly if a deranged criminal walked up to them and stuck a loaded gun at their head.

First they'd let him have anything he wanted — their money, their car... even their body.

And yet, more often than not, he'd take their life, too.

But now that a company called *Threat Response Solutions* has released a 5-hour instructional video that reveals the most effective Gun Disarmament secrets known to man, you no longer have to resign yourself to being a victim of the next mugger, rapist, or drug-crazed murderer who attacks you or your family with a gun.

Instead, when you learn these simple but incredibly powerful Gun Disarmament techniques — as taught to you on this video by two of the world's foremost experts in this highly-specialized field (Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner)...

...you will have a 99% chance of taking away any attacker's gun, dropping him to his knees, and making him beg for mercy!

...All with just a few simple moves you make with your bare hands!

“You no longer have to resign yourself to being a victim of the next mugger, rapist, or drug-crazed murderer who attacks you or your family with a gun!”

As a matter of fact, these Gun Disarmament techniques are so powerful...

Law enforcement officials wish we wouldn't reveal them to the public!

It seems that some police officers fear what might happen to themselves if gang members learn these techniques. Other officers, however, see the urgent need for civilians to be able to properly defend them-

selves against an increasingly dangerous, blood-thirsty, heavily-armed and trigger-happy criminal element.

I'll show you how we solved this problem later on in this letter. But first let me address an issue that's probably uppermost in your mind right now: Your “inner doubt” that you'd really be able to do this.

SKEPTICAL? I DON'T BLAME YOU!

At first, most people don't believe they can actually take away a criminal's gun. I didn't either — until I saw Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner in action.

These two men have devoted the past 15 years of their lives to perfecting the Gun Disarmament techniques they reveal on this powerful video.

Using “Simunitions™” (simulated bullets) in real guns, they've actually shot each other hundreds of times in the process of learning which techniques work, and which ones don't.

They were shocked to discover that most of the Gun Disarmament techniques they were taught in the military — techniques that are still taught to soldiers and police officers today — simply don't work! They'd get you killed in real life!

But through fierce determination and a willingness to get shot with these simulated bullets (which actually hurt and cause scars!), Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner have perfected Gun Disarmament to the point where — when done properly — you will have a 99% chance of snatching that loaded gun away from the deranged criminal who's about to kill you!

Bob and Randy prove it to you on this video. Right before your eyes, they shoot each other to demonstrate how the wrong techniques would get you killed (using today's modern “paint ball” bullets to show you where the bullets strike the body).

Then they show you the right way to do it. And sure enough, the bullets pass by safely every time...

And you stay alive!

Then Bob and Randy show you a variety of moves that will get you complete control

over the gun and the attacker, dropping him to his knees and making him beg for mercy!

Bob and Randy cover every conceivable situation you might face. You'll know how to take an attacker's gun away, regardless of whether he's in front of you or behind you...if he's got you in a choke hold or you're down on the ground...if he's using a shotgun, a submachine gun, a rifle, a revolver, or a semi-auto... if the gun is pointed at your head, at your stomach, or in your back.

You name it, and you'll learn how to deal with it on this video.

The bottom line?

These techniques are designed so that at no time will the muzzle of the gun ever cross your body. That's why you don't get shot.

And you don't just learn about guns, either. Bob and Randy teach you how to disarm someone with a knife, stick, or club, too!

That's one of the reasons why this 3-tape set of videos is 5 hours long. Another reason is that these guys are painstakingly thorough. No detail is overlooked or ignored. Everything you need to know — both what to do and what not to do — is explained in precise detail and shown to you over and over again, from many different camera angles, in regular motion and slow motion, many times!

It's like attending a full 3-day, intensive one-on-one seminar — boiled down into its essential parts and efficiently packaged in 5 hours worth of high-quality video!

You even get “picture-in-picture” two-angle views — some with the camera mounted directly overhead (which you wouldn't get even if you watched these guys in person). All of this is done so that you get the clearest possible instruction on how these life-saving techniques are performed.

After all, as you can imagine...

This material cannot be taken lightly!

With people's lives on the line, nothing is left to chance.

Indeed, once you learn these amazing techniques, you'll know how to survive the kinds of situations and confrontations

that happen around you every day. Consider...

Every day at bank ATM's...gas stations...convenience stores...restaurants...parking lots...bars, even in their own homes — people just like you are **attacked and killed** by deranged, drug-crazed criminals with deadly weapons.

And these days, you don't have to live in a "big city" to be a victim. Even smaller cities are now under siege by ruthless thugs who think nothing of killing you for \$10 just so they can buy their next hit of crack cocaine! For instance, in a small city like Fresno, California (just an hour north of where I live), the crime and murder rates are so bad...

SWAT teams have to patrol the streets at night!

I sincerely hope you don't live in an area like that. But it seems that no matter where you live these days, you're going to be a victim of a violent crime sooner or later.

And the only way to fight back is to be well-prepared to defend yourself when the worst does happen.

And now, with the Gun, Knife, and Club Disarmament techniques you'll learn from Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner, you'll actually be able to remove the danger factor in such life-threatening situations. But remember: It's not about saving your money or your car...

It's about saving your life!

What you'll learn on this video is the real thing. Bob and Randy go all over the country, teaching their secrets to police departments, high-level private security companies — even to elite military forces like the Navy SEALs.

And unlike what you might learn at your neighborhood "karate school", this instruction takes into account that your attacker is not going to cooperate! Instead, you'll learn...

- A life-saving technique you should use that's actually contrary to what most people would "normally" do when someone sticks a gun at their head!
- 3 ways to "clear" the weapon and get yourself out of the way of the bullet!
- Whether you should clear to the outside or the inside. One way will save your life. The other will get you killed!
- How to control the weapon — even when it's in the attacker's hand!
- What you need to know about the kind of gun your attacker is holding — and how to tell if it's ready to fire!
- Where you don't want to hit the person when going for his weapon!
- The big difference between dealing with a double-action vs. a single-action handgun.
- How not to grab a weapon!
- The right points to nail when attacking someone's hand. This will give you complete control over their every move!

- How to drop your attacker to the ground — just by putting your finger in the right place on his body!
- When thrown to the ground, how to fall properly so you don't get hurt. You'll learn front-falling, rear-falling, the rolling fall, and the flipping fall. Plus, how to practice these falls without sustaining injuries!
- Deadly mistakes most martial arts students make with "spinning" moves.
- Which hand to grab if your attacker has a sawed-off shotgun or a submachine gun.
- When faced with an attacker who's bigger and stronger than you, how to take away his "strength advantage" and give it to yourself instead!
- A special technique for submachine guns: You can break every bone in the attacker's arms, hands, wrist, and shoulder with one move!
- Deadly mistakes to avoid when faced with a sawed-off shotgun in your face!
- A subtle technique for rifles that lets you rip the gun right out of the attacker's hands!
- How to take advantage of the natural "weak points" of the human body... any body!
- Use this powerful move on someone with a long gun. Your attacker will have no choice but to let you have complete control over him and his weapon!
- How to use your attacker's rifle as a "fulcrum" to break his wrist!
- How to tear a sawed-off shotgun or rifle out of your attacker's hands — even when he's got it stuck into the back of your neck or buried into your lower back!
- How to react properly in a typical mugging situation.
- "Executive Security" techniques that will help you save someone else's life — perhaps a loved one!
- How to survive a gangland-style "execution" where they've got you kneeling on the ground and are ready to shoot you in the back of the head! (This secret escape is amazing!)
- How to break out of an attacker's choke hold — even when he's got the gun at your throat!
- Plus a whole lot more!

And like I said, you don't just learn about dealing with guns. Bob and Randy also teach you what to do when faced with knives, clubs, and sticks. Here's what you'll learn...

- The one crucial move you must always let your opponent make in a knife fight — and why you shouldn't do anything until he makes it!
- How to protect yourself against an overhead knife strike — and take your opponent down in the process!
- How to "surprise" your attacker and get him to stab himself with his own knife! Meanwhile you keep complete control of the situation!

- How to use certain parts of your attacker's clothing to gain extra leverage when taking him down!
 - A fail-safe way to block an opponent's attempt to stab you — and then take his weapon away, and even snap his elbow joint!
 - How to defend yourself against the deadly "backhand slash" knife attack!
 - Attacked by a mugger from behind? How to send him flying!
 - The right move to make when someone grabs you from the front and holds a knife to your face or stomach!
 - How to eliminate the deadly power of a club — while it's being swung at you at full speed!
 - 50% of the time, a swinging club looks like it's a deadly threat, but it's not! You'll learn when that crucial period is, and how to take advantage of it.
 - Where you want to be hit on your body!
 - What you should never do when your attacker has a stick!
 - How to deal with the difficult, shorter sticks.
 - Proper spacing between you and your opponent. It's closer than you might think! How to get in there safely and easily, and come out on top!
 - How to work your opponent so that he puts himself at a big disadvantage!
 - An "attitude" that will get you killed — and one that will save your life!
 - How to keep from "telegraphing" your moves.
 - How to train effectively — even when you don't have a partner!
 - And much, much more!
- As you can tell...

This is not "lightweight" stuff!

These are life-saving techniques that are only to be used when your life is in imminent danger.

If you're ever caught in a situation where you know you have to take an attacker's weapon away or end up DEAD — that's when you'll want to use these incredibly powerful Weapons Disarmament secrets to save your life, or the life of a loved one.

With these valuable skills "under your belt", you'll be able to turn the tables on your attacker. If need be, you'd be legally justified in killing him, because...

Without these techniques, he'd probably kill you!

Let's be honest: When faced with a deadly attack, most people think they're defenseless — that there's nothing they can do.

That's wrong!

As you'll soon learn from this video, there are all kinds of different ways to protect yourself in deadly situations. Whether you're faced with a gun, a knife, a club, or a stick — you can defeat your attacker and actually come out on top... if you know what to do!

But don't just take my word for it...

Listen to What these Experts (Including a 4-Star General!) Say About this Amazing Self-Defense System!

Men who face death for a living every day know the value of Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner's Weapons Disarmament techniques. Read what they say about these videos, and then decide for yourself...

"Violence is on the upswing in America. Therefore it is important that both men and women possess the ability to defend themselves. The expert self-defense instruction provided by Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner permits anyone to build a simple self-defense strategy. The techniques presented in these videos apply to the military, law enforcement, and all walks of the civilian community."

General Robert C. Kingston
4-Star General, USA (Ret.)

"In my 50 years of military combat experience, no one has done the hands-on research of being unarmed against a live weapon...until now! Study and master what you see on these video tapes. They will save your life."

Major General John K. Singlaub USA (Ret.)
Former Chief of Staff of US Forces
under UN Command in Korea

"I seldom give endorsements, but this is something special. The release of these video tapes is unparalleled. You can learn a lot—and it may save your life."

Colonel Robert K. Brown, USA (Ret.)
Founder and publisher of Soldier of Fortune Magazine

"Whatever the price of these video tapes, the knowledge contained in them is worth ten times as much. I cannot say enough about these videos, except that you should buy them and find out for yourself. Believe me, you won't be disappointed."

John "Dynamite" Donovan, USA Major, Special Forces
Demolition editor for Soldier of Fortune
and 30-year practicing martial artist

"In today's violent society, everyone faces the possibility of staring down the barrel of a gun. It is shocking to know that 95% of the gun disarmament techniques being taught today will get you killed! After viewing and practicing the techniques shown in these videos, I affirm that, without a doubt, this is the most viable and practical Weapons Disarmament system in existence. The simplicity and effectiveness is amazing. Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner really did their homework."

Colonel Fred Caristo, USA (Ret.)
Served in Vietnam from 1964 to 1973,
primarily with Special Ops units.

"As a law enforcement officer, I stood three feet away and looked down the barrel of a gun held by someone intent on killing me. Having survived, I greatly appreciate the accurate techniques demonstrated on these tapes. Now that I'm a state Magistrate, I see both the criminals who commit violent crimes and the victims left to suffer. So when something comes along that gives the victims a fighting chance, I pay attention. Unfortunately, not everything on the market is well thought-out. This video by Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner, however, is extremely well researched. The techniques presented could be the only thing that makes you a survivor instead of a victim. If you have to select one training tape to better prepare yourself for urban combat, select this one."

Robert Hare,
North Carolina State Magistrate

...as you can see, these high-ranking men from the military and law-enforcement strongly recommend that civilians be given these powerful self-defense skills.

And after watching this life-saving video, you will know more than even most soldiers and cops know about Weapons Disarmament (especially guns). It's incredible, but true!

And believe me, it's not simply a matter of striking the gun or the attacker's hand. You have to know what to do the whole way through—from start to finish. And there are certain things you must do that, unless you watch this video, you would almost "instinctively" do the opposite...

...and get shot to death!

But Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner have perfected these techniques — and paid the price for it! They've shot each other with painful wax bullets hundreds of times in the process of learning which moves work, and which ones don't. And they take the time to explain every detail of why you should do things a certain way.

In fact, I can honestly promise you that after watching this video, there will be no questions in your mind. You'll feel completely confident in practicing these techniques. And to help you with your training, we'll even "go the extra mile" and...

GIVE YOU A FREE GUN TO PRACTICE WITH!

No, it's not a real gun, but damned close! It's a life-like replica training gun made of

heavy, solid plastic. Modeled after the Glock 19, it's painted bright orange so it can't be mistaken for the real thing!

But it has the same weight, heft, look, and feel of an actual gun, so that you can safely but realistically practice the Gun Disarmament techniques you learn from Bob and Randy on this video.

Naturally, you'll want to practice these techniques until you get them right — before you try them in life-threatening situations. That's why we want you to have this free training gun to practice with.

But that's not all we're going to give you. We realize that sometimes you might be attacked by someone who has no weapons at all, but who is just as deadly. In cases like this, hand-to-hand combat is as essential to your survival as knowing how to deal with an armed attacker.

That's why this video set includes a third video called...

FIGHTING CHANCE! The Secrets of Unarmed But Deadly Combat

Right from the start, the "Fighting Chance" video teaches you how to develop the psychological mind-set that's necessary for your survival in any violent physical confrontation. You learn it directly from two profes-

sional warriors who have seen more men killed in battle than they care to remember.

Bob Taylor and Randy Wanner take hand-to-hand combat very seriously. They know how deadly it can be — and they want you to end up on the winning side the next time you're in a hostile situation. That's why they devote this video to teaching you...

- How to defeat a larger and stronger opponent every time.
- How to drop an attacker to his knees when he has you in a choke-hold.
- 5 ways to break out of a frontal choke-hold, using just your fingers.
- 3 ways to break out of a rear choke-hold.
- The right way to do a "head butt" — and why you could really hurt yourself if you do it the wrong way! (Not one martial arts student in 100 knows this vital fact!)
- How to use "hair pulls" to break a variety of attacks.
- "Dirty tricks" that are not commonly taught in martial arts studios.
- How to fool your opponent with one move while you break his foot with another!
- The right way to do a groin kick. (Most people do it all wrong!)
- How to break a person's shin bone...with only 6 pounds of pressure!

- How to find the most vulnerable point on someone's leg — and strike it so that you immediately put them out of commission!
- How to get an attacker to release his grip on you — just by hitting a certain point on his hand!
- A simple way to break out of a rear "bear hug" and immediately deliver devastating blows!
- How to break an attacker's wrist if he grabs your hair from the front!
- How to break his wrist or elbow if he grabs your belt from the front!
- How to deal with bar-room assaults, especially the guys known as "finger-pointers." (You'll never get hassled again!)
- Hand/finger-rolls that break an attacker's joints and bring him crashing down to the ground!
- How to make your fist into a potent weapon—without exposing it to injury!
- A sneaky way to build up "spring-coiled tension" in your arm — and then deliver a devastating strike!
- **FACT:** Most rape victims are first thrown on the ground. How to effectively fight off an attacker from that position.
- How to control an attacker when you have him on the ground — just by manipulating his foot!
- The 5 essential strikes — and how to use them!
- "No rules" street-fighting: Tricks that will save your life!
- Where to strike a person's body with a stick, a knife, or your bare hands!
- How to position your feet during a fight to reduce your vulnerability by 50%!
- How to carry yourself so you don't look threatening and "accidentally" start a fight!
- And much more!

Listen: You will learn more life-saving self-defense skills from this video than if you went to ten years of karate school. I'm serious.

In fact, when practiced properly, these techniques will make a black-belt karate master putty in your hands!

Priority Order Form For Soldier of Fortune Readers Only!

For The *Fastest* Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE

1-800-899-8153 (Ask For Department FC-02)

YES! I want to take advantage of this incredible opportunity while it's still available... I'm ready to take responsibility for my own safety and the safety of my family! I understand I have an overly-generous **3-Month No Questions Asked 100% Guarantee:** If after viewing these videos for three months, I am unsatisfied for any reason at all, I can simply return them for a **full refund** of my purchase price. That means I can decide for myself if this really is the most amazing self-taught weapons disarmament course ever created. It's a fabulous deal, and I don't risk a dime by ordering! So please, rush it to me by return mail!

By initialing this line, I am stating that I am over 18 years of age and that I have never been convicted of a felony. I also state that I will use the information contained in *Weapons Disarmament* in a defensive situation only. I accept sole responsibility for my actions as an adult.

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my:
 Visa MasterCard American Express Discover
 Card #: _____
 Expires: _____
 Signature: _____

Enclosed is my check (payable to TRS) for \$97.
 Please rush my *Weapons Disarmament* video package to:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Tactical Response Solutions • 2945 S. Mooney Blvd. Dept. FC-02 • Visalia, CA 93277

CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$10 for "2-Day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping.

But perhaps you're wondering...

Should these secrets be released to the public?

As I mentioned earlier, some law enforcement officials wish we wouldn't reveal these Weapons Disarmament secrets to the public. And we can certainly understand their concern! After all, in some big-city gangs these days, prospective members are required to take away a gun from a cop as part of their "initiation" into the gang!

But we at Threat Response Solutions (TRS) have carefully weighed the pros and cons and decided to go ahead and make this knowledge available to honest, law-abiding citizens like you.

We take every precautionary measure and do our level best to make sure that gang members and criminals do not get their hands on this information. In fact, we refuse to sell these videos to anyone under 18, or anyone who has ever been convicted of a felony.

Instead, we want to provide only people like you with the means to actually survive what could otherwise be a fatal situation.

And we know that, after watching these video tapes and practicing the techniques you'll learn from them, you will possess such an incredible amount of confidence in your ability to deal with an armed attacker that...

You will never walk the streets in fear again!

Won't that be nice? The peace of mind you'll enjoy is indescribable. And not only that, but you'll exude that Clint Eastwood-style "inner power" that women find irresistible!

Plus, you'll no longer have to resign yourself to being a victim of the next mugger, rapist, or drug-crazed murderer who attacks you or your family with a gun.

Now you can fight back and WIN! In fact, your attacker won't even know what him if you decide to let him live, that is!

So here's how to order: Just pick up the phone and call TOLL-FREE:

1-800-899-8153
and ask for Department FC-02

Tell the girl who answers that you want Bob and Randy's "Weapons Disarmament" video package — plus the free training gun that comes with it. (You can also use the Priority Order Form at the bottom of this page if you prefer to order by mail.)

The price for these 5 hours worth of video instruction is only \$97 (which includes shipping) — a small price to pay for the knowledge and skills that may some day save your life, or the life of a loved one.

Your videos will be on their way to you the very next day, because in today's violent society, there's no time to lose. You don't know when you're going to be the next victim, so we want you to have these tapes as soon as possible.

Plus, they come with a 3-month **MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE**. So if you're not satisfied with them — for any reason whatsoever — just return them for a full refund of every penny you paid. No questions asked, and no hard feelings either.

As you can see, you take no risk when you order — so I strongly encourage you to order your tapes today.

After all, without these tapes, you risk looking down the barrel of a loaded gun some day — and not knowing what to do.

That's a risk no one should ever take.

Need I say more?

Sincerely,



Russell L. Horine
 President, TRS

P.S. I almost forgot...

When you go to practice the Weapons Disarmament skills you'll learn from these video tapes, please do not practice them in public (such as a public park or anywhere else where people can see you).

There are two reasons for this...

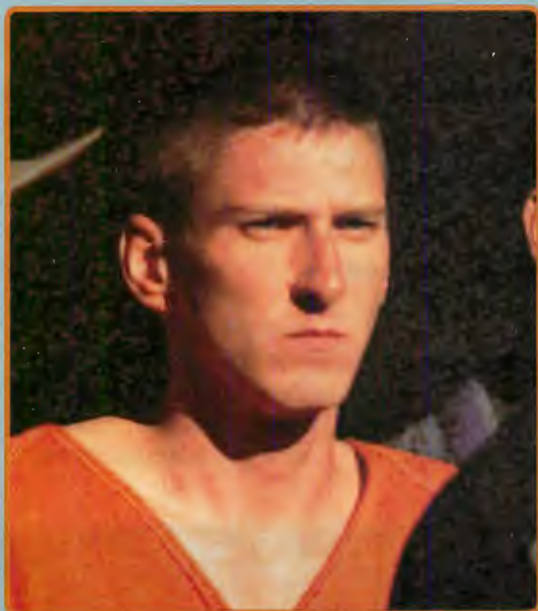
- #1. These techniques are so real, on-lookers will not be able to tell that you're just practicing. They'll think it's the "real thing" going on, and they'll call the police, who will react accordingly!
- #2. Spectators might watch you practicing, and think that they could perform these moves without watching the video. But they would be unaware of many crucial facts explained on the video, and they'd end up getting themselves killed since they wouldn't know what they're doing.

So please, keep it "low key" and practice in private. You'll be doing yourself and everybody else a big favor.

Thanks.

Timothy McVeigh A BATF Agent?

by *SOF* Staff



Timothy McVeigh. Photo: AP/Wide World



Rodriguez (left) and unknown BATF agent. Photo: Bob Owen

In *SOF*'s 20-year existence few things have generated as many reader letters and phone calls as a photo on Page 50 of the June issue.

You don't have to buy into the New World Order conspiracy or believe black helicopters are following you to notice the uncanny similarity between the BATF agent who escorted Robert Rodriguez to court during the Waco trial and accused Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

If it were McVeigh in our photo, *SOF* would have the scoop of the century, but on close examination it's apparent McVeigh and the mystery agent are distinctly different. Reproduced on this page are two shots taken of McVeigh after his arrest and the photo from the June issue.



Timothy McVeigh. Photo: AP/Wide World

Even a cursory look shows that the two have very differently shaped ears and that McVeigh has a rounded nose compared to the agent's sharply cut one. Also, *SOF*'s James L. Pate sat in front of the mystery agent during the Waco trial and flat out states it isn't McVeigh. Jack Killorin, public affairs honcho at BATF, won't identify who the agent is, saying only that he's assigned to an office in California and that McVeigh has never worked for BATF.

While this won't convince everyone in the reading audience, the staff at *SOF* and the various contributors we've shown the photos to do not believe that these two persons are one and the same. ✖

Kawmura has fallen to Burmese government forces. This last Karen stronghold, located some 80 miles southeast of Manerplaw near the Thai village of Mae Sot on the Moei River, was strategically insignificant, yet symbolically important, and will go down in Karen history as their "Alamo."

Kawmura's fate was sealed long before its overthrow. A mutiny among the Karen rank-and-file in early December left their army weak and vulnerable. SLORC (Burmese State Law and Order Restoration Council), emboldened by the split in the ranks and aided by defectors, launched a surprise attack against Manerplaw, Kawmura and other Karen areas

CALAMITY AT KAWMURA

Last Karen Stronghold Slashed By SLORC

Text & Photos by Kurt Hanson

(see "Betrayed And Beaten In Battle," July '95).

On 13 December 1994, SLORC began round-the-clock shelling of

Karen positions using mortars, recoilless rifles and artillery. Their apparent strategy was to blast Kawmura and its defenders into oblivion. Colonel Aung Myint, a SLORC commander, vowed to "plow up Kawmura and turn it into a wasteland."

After a week-long prep, SLORC attacked, launching human wave assaults across a World War I-style no-man's-land complete with land mines, booby traps and razor wire. The Karens easily held the line, cut down the suicidal attackers by the dozens and stalled the offensive.

Unfortunately, on the heels of their first failed assault on Kawmura, Manerplaw fell, freeing up SLORC men and matériel. Government forces



Once the smoke cleared, more than 100 Burmese, both dead and dying, littered the battlefield — a pathetic reminder of SLORC's disregard for the lives of its own soldiers.



SLORC soldiers were cut down by the dozens as Karens stalled the human wave attacks across a World War I-style no-man's-land.

A Future For The Karens?

It wasn't exactly the kind of breakfast a nutritionist would recommend. But my old Karen friend Captain Soe Moe insisted that boiled eggs and booze were just the thing to kick start your morning. It seemed to work for him, but made me thoroughly ill.

We were bouncing down the road headed for the last major fighting of the 1995 dry season between the KNLA and government forces. Recent political and military setbacks left the resistance in a state of major disorganization.

Once the Karens gave up Kawmura, Burmese forces shifted their attentions to the Wa Le-Kanele pocket and the KNLA's 6 Brigade area 45 km southeast of Mae Sot. For many years this area had been a combat backwater where trade took precedence over fighting. But the redeployment of the KNLA's 101 Battalion from Kawmura and remnants of units from Manerplaw complicated things. Add to this congestion KNU president General Bo Mya, other senior leaders and five government battalions, and you can see why most 6 Brigade commanders vacated the AO.

Unfortunately, this left the newly arrived Manerplaw and Kawmura veterans to fend for themselves in an unfamiliar area. Years of sitting in trenches and manning static defenses left the men unprepared for guerrilla fighting. They were unable to perform the most basic tasks like patrolling. Therefore, they had no idea of enemy location, strength or disposition. The KNLA relied on radio intercepts and interrogations of captured porters.

Government forces were equally unfamiliar with the terrain, yet they used patrolling and basic map and compass work to great advantage. They were able find their way around and constantly outmaneuvered the KNLA, forcing withdrawal after withdrawal.

We joined up with "Uncle" Htaw Hlar's 101 Battalion — for many years the premier strike force of the KNLA— that by the mid-'80s had been reduced to a garrison force at Kawmura. Gone were the days when the battalion marched and fought all over the contested area. Now 62 and facing the most critical challenge of his life, Uncle tried to recapture something of those glory days. But it was not to be. The enemy was always right behind, never once allowing the 101 Battalion to get its footing.

Bo Mya soon ordered the KNLA to suspend operations while the KNU sought truce talks with the government. It is unlikely the KNU will get much out of any talks that take place since they have nothing to lay on the table. Unless the Burmese government suddenly becomes uncharacteristically generous, the Karens are facing some very hard make-or-break times ahead.

For the Karens it is not only a time to deal with an enemy, but also to take a hard look at themselves. The rank-and-file soldiers have tired of leadership that has grown rich fighting not for their country, but for money.

— Don Dickinson

could now focus their sights on Kawmura with the intent to "destroy it at all costs." Amid nonstop SLORC shelling, a defiant Kawmura commander, Col. Do Lah, promised to "fight to the last man." Another longtime Karen veteran of Kawmura hunkered down in his bunker conceded this was by far the worst offensive he had ever seen. "SLORC really wants destroy to us," he acknowledged.

The SLORC barrage pounded the battlefield with a hailstorm of steel throughout the first week of February. Seemingly, every gun in SLORC's arsenal was firing away. It rocked the strong-

hold. Geysers of smoke and dust shrouded Kawmura, yet the Karens sat snug in their bunkers and waited out the fire.

At dawn, 8 February 1995, government forces ordered the 118th Battalion to storm Kawmura. Once more, hundreds of screaming SLORC sol-



Remnants of the 103 Battalion stream back after heavy contact with Burmese troops. For the Karens it is not only a time to deal with the enemy, but also to take a hard look at themselves. Photo: Max Weale

diers charged across no-man's-land. Some carried wire cutters while others toted bangalore torpedoes to cut and blast their way through the razor wire defenses.

The Karens emerged from their

Continued on page 70

Own Night Vision, Own The Night

NVGs See Into The Heart Of Darkness

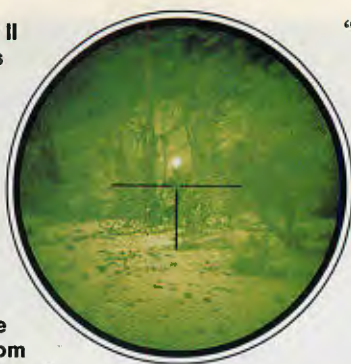
by Eugene Nielsen

It was a routine stakeout in Vacaville, California, but one where the situation could have turned sour were it not for night vision. Several plainclothes officers and an undercover agent of the Vacaville PD observed a group of suspicious men in a dark parking lot removing weapons from the trunk of a car and strapping them on. Not knowing what they were dealing with, and not wanting to blow their undercover agent's identity, the officers called for backup and used their ITT Night Enforcer 150 DX kit with 3X lens to read the vehicle's plate: A trace revealed the "suspicious" men were corrections officers who were preparing for a raid. Having night vision equipment prevented a humorous situation from turning tragic.

Night Vision Devices (NVDs) have evolved as vital and increasingly com-

World War II developments ultimately resulted in deployment of the first night weapon sight, U.S. M3 "snooperscope."

Projecting invisible infrared beacon, snooperscope stole the night from the enemy ... but gave it back when he got his own infrared viewers: IR beacon projected by system shows up here as bright light when viewed through opposing IR scope.



Same target, same night with quarter-moon and stars, but viewed through an early passive "starlight" scope. Using ambient light, passive scopes give subject no indication he is being viewed — or targeted. Photos: Chuck Taylor

mon tactical tools, but there is much confusion about night vision technology and equipment. The marketing hype surrounding NVDs has certainly not been helpful in this respect. To make matters worse, many dealers are ill informed about the NVDs they promote and sell. Before one can make an informed purchasing decision it is essential to have a basic understanding of night vision technology.

Modern NVDs are classified as either active or passive. Active NVDs utilize their own light source, outside the visible spectrum, to illuminate the target. Such NVDs that rely on their own light source are designated Generation (Gen) 0. Passive NVDs, commonly known as

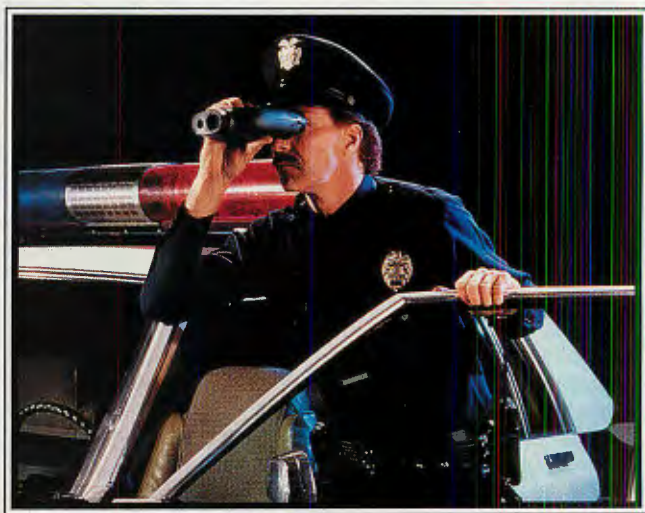
"starlight scopes," utilize available ambient light and electronically amplify it. Starlight scopes, designated Gen I, II and III, have now largely replaced Gen 0 NVDs. However, there are advantages and disadvantages to each type.

An electrooptical device known as an *image intensifier tube* is what makes night vision possible and is the heart of all NVDs. All image intensifier tubes operate on the same basic principle: A photocathode inside the image intensifier tube absorbs light energy (photons) and converts it into electrical energy (electrons). This electrical signal is amplified electronically. It then strikes a phosphor screen, which converts it into a visible image.

The U.S. government requires all NVDs to meet federal standards to ensure that there is absolutely no radiation that would pose any health risk to the user. However, some NVDs have been imported from the former Soviet Union that may pose a radiation hazard to the user (e.g., Novosibirsk Instrument Making Plant's T3C with plastic housing).

Infrared: The Light Fantastic

The first true NVD was the Infra-Red (IR) M3 "snooperscope," developed by the U.S. military in the late 1940s. Considered state-of-the-art for many years, the snooperscope was a



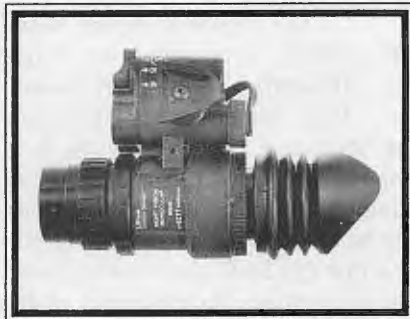
Night vision devices are a great tactical aid in low-light military or police tactical situations, whether for surveillance/recon, gathering intelligence or evidence, or as weapons sights. Photo: author's collection

Gen 0 active device, relying on its own IR source for illumination. Situated just beyond the red of the visible portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, IR radiation is invisible to the naked eye but is made visible by the sensor and monitor of the NVD. Within the effective viewing range of the IR illuminator, active NVDs have the advantage of affording vision in what would otherwise be total darkness.

Although IR radiation is invisible to the normal naked eye, it functions and is affected by the same things as visible light. The disadvantage of active NVDs is the potential for detection by subjects with *their own* NVDs.

Passive NVDs were developed some 30 years ago and now largely replace active NVDs in military forces. First employed by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, they have the advantage of not emitting any radiation that can be detected by the subject. In addition, they are not limited to the effective range of an illuminator.

Gen I devices utilize an image intensifier that consists of a single or a three-stage image input vacuum tube



Litton models M982 Gen II PLUS and M983 Gen III night vision monocular systems provide high-resolution night vision in lightweight, single-tube, single-eyepiece configuration. Single-eye format allows instant transition to ambient light viewing, since one eye remains uncovered and dark-adapted. Modular design of M982/M983 allows operator to easily field-adapt both models for SLR or video cameras, CCTV systems. Litton M982 shown. Photo: courtesy Nightline

that amplifies weak input images by accelerating electrons. The electrons are accelerated and focused by an applied electric field. Gen I devices typically use an S-20 photocathode.

Many Gen I devices are capable of high resolution but — particularly those with three-stage intensifiers —



Night vision devices, such as ITT's PVS-7B with flip-up helmet mount, enhance night recon ability, make low-light ops possible. Photo: author's collection

are subject to "blooming" when bright light sources (such as flashlights, headlights, or even muzzle flash) are encountered. When it occurs, blooming obliterates the image, rendering the device temporarily useless. Geometric distortion (a "bowing" of parallel lines) and image persistence (streaking when the device is moved) are also problems inherent in Gen I devices.

Let There Be Intensified Light

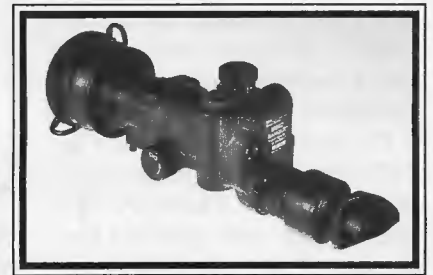
Gen II and III devices employ Microchannel Plate (MCP) intensifiers, which are a vast improvement over Gen I intensifier tubes. MCP intensifiers are smaller and lighter than Gen I intensifiers and provide improved spectral sensitivity and tube life. MCP intensifiers also eliminate or greatly reduce the problems of blooming and streaking common to Gen I devices.

The MCP consists of a metal-coated glass disk with between 2 million to more than 6 million channels or holes. These channels have secondary emission characteristics — they emit additional electrons when struck by a single electron. Thus, electrons passing through the channels are multiplied thousands of times. Electron gain is proportional to the incident electron energy. The number of holes in the MCP is a major determinant of image intensifier resolution.

Gen II devices typically use an S-25 (extended red) photocathode. Geometric distortion can be a problem with certain Gen II intensifiers using electrostatic inversion instead of fi-

ber-optic inversion of the image. MCP intensifiers with fiber-optic inversion eliminate geometric distortion. The use of fiber-optic bundles can also result in sheer distortion; i.e., straight lines appear dislocated or "sheered" when viewed. Non-inverting MCP intensifiers with clear glass optics are free of distortion.

Gen III devices were first produced in the early 1980s and are technologically the most advanced. The primary difference with Gen III scopes is that the multialkali photocathode has been replaced by a gallium arsenide (GaAs) photocathode, which provides increased system resolution and photosensitivity. In addition, the MCP is coated with an ion barrier to increase tube life. There is no per-



Litton M992 Ranger is compact, state-of-the-art, U.S. milspec, individual night weapon sight. Offset-eyepiece design allows for same head position of standard day sight. Available with Gen II PLUS or Gen III interchangeable image intensifiers, with 4X or 6X lens, chevron or duplex (cross-hair) reticles. Model 992 Gen II PLUS 4X Ranger shown. Photo: courtesy Nightline

ceptible distortion in U.S. milspec Gen III image intensifier tubes manufactured after 1988.

With MCP intensifiers, a faint, honeycombed pattern sometimes occurs throughout the image area under high-light conditions. This is known as Fixed-Pattern Noise (FPN) and is inherent in the structure of the MCP. FPN can be seen in all Gen II and Gen III systems if the light level is high enough.

The estimated service life of the image intensifier tube is an important factor to consider when purchasing an NVD. The image intensifier is the most expensive component of a starlight scope and I would be wary of the "reconditioned" units that are for sale by some manufacturers. Any apparent savings at the outset may be more than offset by the cost of replacing the image intensifier later on.

Milspec intensifier tubes are designed to operate for 5,000 hours or more, something that needs to be considered if buying a "cheaper" import.

All Things Considered

In evaluating the performance of an NVD, the entire system, including the objective lens, image intensifier and eyepiece(s), must be evaluated as a unit. Important ratings in evaluating performance are gain, photosensitivity, resolution, equivalent background illumination, signal-to-noise ratio, distortion, magnification, and field of view. The suitability to the intended application and overall cost of ownership are also important factors to consider.

The number of times that an NVD amplifies light input is known as gain. There are two types of gain: tube gain and system gain. Tube gain is the electron amplification level of the image intensifier tube. System gain is the actual level of light that reaches the user's eyes after the tube gain is affected by other elements of the system. System gain is usually in the thousands and is an important measurement to the user, since it measures what is actually seen. Tube gain is generally in the tens of thousands.

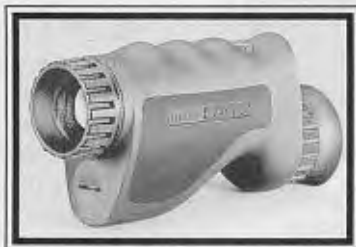
Tube gain is measured by dividing the light output of the image intensifier tube in footlamberts (fl) by the light input in footcandles (fc). System gain is measured by dividing the light output of the system in fl by the light input in fl.

Although some companies advertise light amplification or gain as high as 95,000 for some of their NVDs, these figures are extremely misleading since they only consider tube gain and do not consider system performance. When it comes to tube gain, more is not necessarily better. Too high a tube gain level will actually lower image quality by increasing tube "noise." A high tube gain will also lower the effective life span of the image intensifier tube. Because of these factors, the U.S. military specifies devices with a tube gain of

20,000 to 35,000.

One U.S. manufacturer tested a Russian night vision weapon sight (rifle scope) that had been advertised with gains of anywhere from 35,000 to 90,000. When they tested the weapon sight they discovered an actual system gain of approximately 600.

The sharpness and clarity of the amplified image is obvi-



ITT Night Enforcer 250 sprang from military technology employed during Desert Storm, is simple to operate and ruggedly designed, water resistant and floating — ideal for use around water. Night vision gear has become vital tool for law enforcement, denying criminal's best ally — the dark. Night Enforcer 150 monocular (inset) is very compact, easy to have with you. Photos: courtesy ITT Night Vision

ously very important. Image intensifier resolution is measured in line pairs per millimeter (lp/mm), while system resolution is measured in cycles per milliradian (cy/mr). Lp/mm and cy/mr are very different and should not be confused. System resolution is more significant since it measures what the user will actually see. System resolution will increase with magnification, even though the image intensifier tube's resolution has not changed. Tube resolution becomes significant when evaluating systems with similar lenses and filters. Tube resolution is determined from a 1951 Air Force Resolving Test Target. Actual resolution will be less than rated, at less than optimum light levels.

How Sensitive Are You?

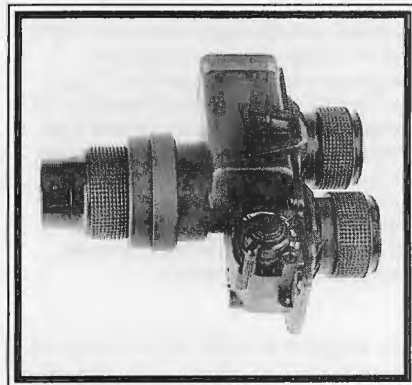
The NVD's photosensitivity is important in determining the amount and type of light needed for optimum performance. Photosensitivity is generally measured in microamps per lumen ($\mu\text{A}/\text{lm}$). This is the amount

of electrical current (μA) that is produced when the photocathode is exposed to a given amount of light (lm). Although NVDs with a high photosensitivity will generally perform better than NVDs with a lower photosensitivity under darker conditions, it is important to determine where in the light spectrum the measurements were taken — because there is more available energy in the near-IR portion of the spectrum at night than there is in the visible spectrum.

Spectral sensitivity is measured in milliamps per watt (mA/W). This is the amount of electrical current (mA) that is produced when the photocathode is exposed to a specified wavelength of light.

Most NVDs will function adequately under relatively bright nighttime conditions, such as full moonlight. However, many NVDs will not provide an adequate image at lower light levels. Gen II and III devices should provide a clear, sharp image with minimum starlight. Average starlight on a clear night is around 1/100,000 fc.

The Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) determines an image intensifier's low-light resolution. Manufacturers compute the SNR in a variety of ways. It is important to know how the SNR was computed before valid comparisons can be made. The U.S. military specifies that the SNR takes into account photosensitivity, the efficiency of the phosphor screen in reconverting the



Litton models M972 Gen II PLUS and M973 night vision goggles (NVGs) are designed to AN/PVS-7A (NSN 5855-01-228-0939) milspecs, can be used with face mask or hand-held. Litton NVGs are distributed exclusively by Nightline Inc. Photo: courtesy Nightline



Salvadoran airborne snipers with U.S. A/N PVS-4 Gen II starlight scopes train in 1989. Photo: Harry Claflin

electron image into visible light, and the "noise" contribution of the MCP. The higher the SNR, the better the ability of the NVD to perform under very low-light conditions.

The amount of Equivalent Background Illumination (EBI) is also a very important factor, since it determines the lowest light level at which an object can be detected. EBI is the amount of light that is seen when the NVD is turned on and there is no light on the photocathode. EBI is measured in lumens per square centimeter (lm/cm^2). Below this level, objects will be masked by the EBI.

Because of their dependence on ambient light, passive NVDs will not function in total darkness, and their performance may be less than stellar under various conditions of darkness commonly encountered in many tactical operations. Also, there may be difficulty in viewing objects veiled in dark shadows. IR illuminators, though, may be used in conjunction with NVDs to overcome their dependence on ambient light.

For long-range illumination, an IR spotlight (a standard spotlight with an IR filter to block out visible light) or an IR laser diode can be used. If an IR laser diode illuminator is used, it is imperative for the operator to

abide by appropriate safety guidelines to reduce the chance of eye damage that can occur if some lasers (more than 0.1 milliwatt [mW]) strike the human eye.

Some Soviet/Russian IR laser illuminators operate at greater than 3 mW. These laser illuminators can cause permanent eye damage or blindness. The risk is particularly great since the IR beam is invisible to the naked eye, negating the normal reflex action to shut one's eyes or look away from detectable intense light energy sources.

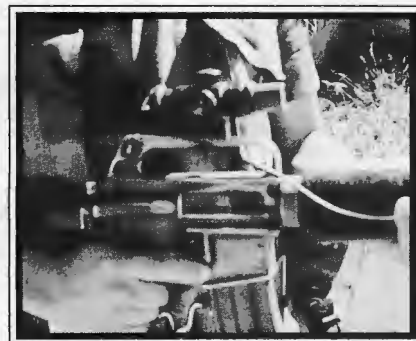
IR-emitting LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes — also known as "fireflies") can be used for close range illumination and can also be placed on vehicles and people for aerial tracking. IR-emitting LEDs are available at any electronics store and are quite cheap

(less than a dollar).

An NVD's optics are as important as the image intensifier in overall performance. Inferior optics can reduce light transmission and may also re-

sult in considerable distortion. Some optics may produce a sharp image at the center but not at the periphery. NVDs are available with a variety of magnifications and some have an interchangeable lens system. However, as the magnification increases, the amount of light available to the image intensifier decreases.

As you increase the magnification,



Very early model Litton IR laser target designator, mounted on M16A1 in El Salvador, 1989. Wearing IR goggles, operator only needs to track laser beam to target. Photo: Harry Claflin

you also decrease the field of view (FOV). FOV is the area of the image that is visible in the scope. The FOV also varies greatly with the quality

Continued on page 68

NVD SOURCES

Nightline Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 160819, Miami, FL 33116; phone: 305-598-5357

ITT Night Vision, Dept. SOF, 7635 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA 24019; phone: 800-448-8678

S.T.A.N.O. Components, Dept. SOF, Box 2048, Carson City, NV 89702; phone: 702-246-5281

Excalibur Enterprises, Dept. SOF, Box 400, Fogelsville, PA 18051; phone: 610-391-9105

M.O.R.O. Vision, Dept. SOF, 219 Broadway, Suite 307/SF, Laguna Beach, CA 92651; phone: 714-497-4683; fax: 714-497-1270

U.S. General Technologies, Dept. SOF, 1345 Mitchell Ave., S. San Francisco, CA 94080

Hitek International, Dept. SOF, 490 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063

First Witness Video, Dept. SOF, 276 N. Lewis St., Staunton, VA 24401

The definitive source book on night vision from 1945-2000 is *Electro-Optical Surveillance* (Vol. III, CCS Security Source Library), @ \$300 from CCS Security Source Library, Dept. SOF, 360 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017; phone: 212-557-3040.

Soldier Of Fortune has repeatedly called for investigations into events at Waco and Ruby Ridge. If mistakes were made by ATF officials, they should be held accountable. If there are systemic problems with the agency, they should be corrected. In our effort to address these issues, *SOF* has found many of the ATF rank-and-file willing to come

of the settlement, Treasury was allowed to withdraw all the documents they had filed, including the small portion of the interviews they submitted. I started thinking, what are they trying to hide? What's in those documents?

SOF: Well, this would certainly be something of interest to a congressional investigation.

SOF: I'd like to change directions for a minute. You have mentioned in the past that a top-heavy bureaucracy has affected the amount of money agents have for operations.

KK: The agents have nothing. When ATF budgets are slashed, the people left without operating money are the agents and the investigations. If you look at the New Orleans of-

Mismanaged, Mindless &

ATF Insider Talks About Ailing Agency

by *SOF* Staff

forward. Many feel they are being blamed for a bureaucracy out of control and contend fault lies with management, not the agents in the field.

Kay Kubicki is just such an agent. After leaving the ATF in July 1988 as a group supervisor, she began representing Treasury agents as an attorney in employment matters. *SOF* recently interviewed her regarding problems in the agency.

SOF: Let's start with Waco. One of the things our sources report is that Waco commanders Phil Chojnacki and Chuck Sarabyn were able to get reinstated with back pay because their lawyers were able to put pressure on the government by subpoenaing the phone records. Have you heard anything of this nature?

KK: Yes, I have heard rumors.

SOF: The government caved in because those phone records show upper management's involvement at Waco.

KK: I don't know about the phone records specifically. But the agents' lawyers appealed their firing to the Merit Systems Protection Board — the agency that hears federal employees' appeals. Anyway, they asked, through the discovery process, for the transcripts of the interviews that they used to fire Chojnacki and Sarabyn. Apparently there are phone records included in those transcripts. Only after the judge set a deadline for Treasury to produce the documents, did they begin negotiating a settlement. One of the lawyers noted that as part

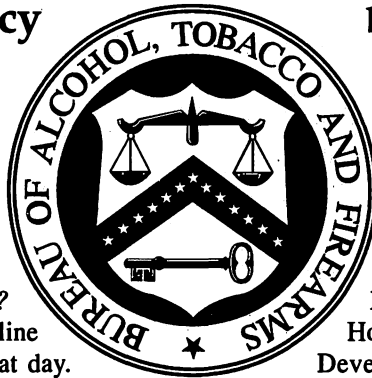
KK: Whoever in Congress is interested in that particular issue, Waco, ought to be digging like a banshee.

SOF: Digging into what?

KK: Into the exact timeline of events that happened that day. After having been an agent involved in Miami in the '80s, I can tell you nothing gets by headquarters. Nothing. I mean everything you do has to be approved by headquarters. The rumor running around ATF today claims there is evidence in those transcripts that proves Chojnacki and Sarabyn were not responsible — that they were acting under orders from upper management. All I know is that it appears to me they must have had something explosive to bring those men back.

SOF: What do you mean, bring them back?

KK: Well, they reinstated the agents with not only back pay and benefits, but they are now in law enforcement positions, even though Treasury says they're not. And Chuck Sarabyn flies home every two weeks to visit his family until they're relocated to Washington. I've never heard of anyone else being allowed that. So whatever they have, it is explosive. They never missed a day of pay. What is very interesting to me is Ron Noble told me in his office, a year ago, that Chojnacki and Sarabyn would never come back as agents. That's what he said. And then in August, there was a completely different story. And then in December, they're back.



office, and it's one of their hot offices right now, they've taken money from the Department of Housing and Urban

Development because

HUD is seeding law enforcement activities to work on cleaning up the projects.

SOF: I guess they can budget it that way. They have the authority to direct funds as they see fit.

KK: Right. They work it into a task force situation. Well, that's not ATF money. But, I can tell you, I've been told by agents in Kansas City that they were given \$50 a month for gas and oil changes for their vehicles. How far can you get on \$50? Some vehicles assigned to agents have over 160,000 miles on them. How can you do the job? These are not usable law enforcement vehicles at 160,000 miles. On the other hand, and this is my point, you have the special agent in charge, the assistant special agents and all operations officers with brand new cars. And according to GAO regs, they do not even qualify for cars. Yet some agent who is doing the grunt work, trying to make a case, is sitting with a vehicle with over 100,000 miles on it. This happened to me. There I am, trying to conduct an investigation, and my car breaks down at 2300 hours in the worst neighborhood in Chicago. This happens constantly in ATF. The upper management people, they grab the new

cars and throw the bones to the agents. On top of that, all those sitting up at bureau headquarters are getting the 25% availability pay.

SOF: *What's that? What does availability pay mean?*

KK: Well, most people at headquarters are a minimum of a grade 13. They go up there as a 13 and they become 14s very quickly. Availabil-

Macho

ity pay is supposed to be money that is given to an agent for working overtime. They don't get time and a half, they get availability pay — 25% of their base pay. The way it is meant to work is when an agent is on surveillance or works at night this is how they get paid for it. But the way it works in reality is that the people in headquarters will schedule their day so that they will be there until 1800, log two hours of overtime and qualify for availability pay. And with the bloated number of managers this adds up to a lot of money, money that doesn't go for investigations.

SOF: *When did the bureaucracy start to get out of control like this?*

KK: It really started to balloon around 1990 when you had an increase in management.

SOF: *But why would an ATF director approve this increase in upper management?*

KK: Because it all supports their grade. In order to have a grade 14 supervisor, you have to have so many 13s to supervise. The regulations themselves cause this kind of bloating. If you want to be a SEC grade 16, you need so many 15s underneath. So, if they want to pay themselves more money, they have to create higher grades. They never see that money at the agent level. It's certainly not based on more complex investigations.

SOF: *Why isn't the ATF more interested in complex cases? They seem to concentrate on pursuing gun shop owners more than hardened criminals.*

KK: It's easy. It's a clean kill.

SOF: *Are you substantiating the allegations that they'd rather go after some poor dork with a gun shop*

than butt heads with gangs?

KK: Many supervisors would rather do that. Many group supervisors base their decisions on what cases to open based on the amount of controversy it has. The agent does not make that decision. The agent gathers the information, writes it up and gives it to the supervisor. The supervisor reads the case and if the case is a little bit controversial, he takes it higher.

SOF: *Now, what do you mean by controversial?*

KK: For instance, if you were going to go after the Bloods and the Crips, or if there's anything that is going to be a little bit on the edge, the supervisor won't approve it. Something that's going to entail a lot of search warrants, a lot of undercover work and informants — things that can cause you problems — are discouraged. If there's going to be anything that could go wrong, then if that supervisor is interested in a career move upward, he is going to go discuss it with the next level manager.

SOF: *I see. And the supervisor has the final word?*

KK: Sure, he can come back and say to the agent, 'No, you're not opening it.' And there's nothing the agent can do because the agent cannot get any money. No other agent will be assigned to work with them on the project and the agent can actually be reprimanded for insubordination.

SOF: *Then it's not so much of an ATF bureaucracy motivated by pursuing the gun owner because they're anti-gun, as much as it is a case of taking the easy way out, to get a better kill percentage?*

KK: Right. Because all the supervisors are interested in is how many cases did they make at the end of the year. They don't care what it involved. I will tell you that agents, many

agents, have been forced into a situation where they take adopted cases from police officers.

SOF: *What do you mean by that?*

KK: The case is made. The cop pulls over somebody for a driving violation and the guy has a gun on the seat in the back. It's an easy case. You know, many agents have been forced into taking adopted cases like that when what they want to do is real investigative work.

SOF: *Didn't this happen to you? You were talking about when you were an active agent supervisor and had a number of cases shut down by your superiors that you wanted to pursue.*

KK: Well, there was a case where Greek nationals with political immunity were trying to buy a phenomenal amount of explosives over the phone. I remember a shopping list of explosives that they wanted. One item was

something like 200 pounds of dynamite, and that was only one item. When we got these numbers, I looked at this and I wondered where we could get that much dummy dynamite to show them. And this was just the first buy. But I couldn't even get their phone traced.

SOF: *You couldn't get what?*

KK: I requested to have the telephone number traced down through

Interpol, and the ATF/Interpol representative wouldn't even return my calls. I sent him copies of the report to show how this case was getting bigger and bigger. I couldn't even get them to tell me where the phone number went to. Finally, I got so disgusted I gave it to the FBI.

SOF: *And why did you think they would not respond?*

Continued on page 82



Ron Noble, assistant secretary of the Treasury for law enforcement, made assurances that Waco commanders Phillip Chojnacki and Chuck Sarabyn would never come back as agents. They were reinstated in December. Photo: courtesy James L. Pate

MOTHER RUSSIA'S SNIPER RIFLE

Mosin-Nagant M91/30 A Bargain Communist Classic

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

At the time of Germany's invasion of Russia on 22 June 1941, Russian snipers held a considerable edge over their German counterparts in both tactics and matériel. A com-

viet source, more than 54,000 Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifles were produced between 1932 and 1938. During the war, production each year matched this quantity.

These rifles were used with deadly effect on the Eastern Front and German soldiers justifiably feared Russian

NVA and VC during the Vietnam War.

An exceptional piece of history, the Mosin-Nagant sniper rifle was always, until recently, a relatively rare firearm. Century International Arms Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 714, St. Albans, VT 05478; phone: 800-527-1252; fax: 802-527-0470) has imported a substantial number of caliber 7.62x54R Mosin-Nagant M91/30 sniper rifles with the original Model PU scope. These rifles were refurb-



Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifles were used with deadly effect on the Eastern Front. This Soviet sniper team is deployed with a M1891/30 equipped with the less common Model PE 4-power scope. Photo courtesy: NRA



Shooting the Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle from a benchrest with standard military ball ammunition of three types produced accuracy no better than 2.3 MOA at 100 yards.

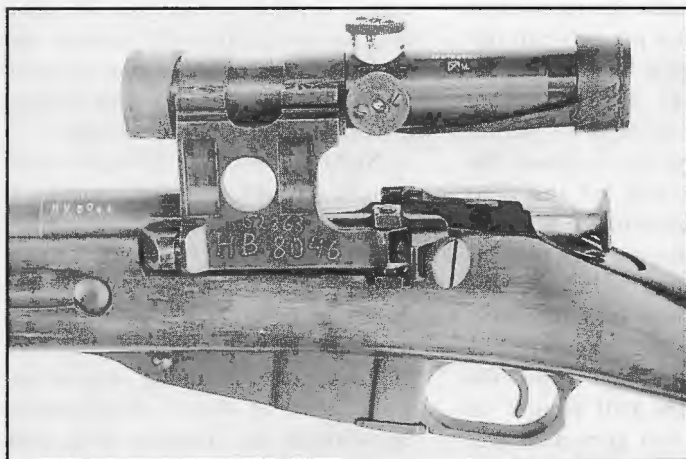
prehensive sniper doctrine had been established by the Soviet army many years before World War II. Ironically enough, it was based upon German sniping techniques developed during World War I and subsequently neglected. In addition, according to So-

sian snipers were equipped with the Mosin-Nagant Model 1891/30 bolt-action rifle fitted with the Model PU 3.5-power scope. A lesser number used the Model PE 4-power scope. The Mosin-Nagant sniper rifle was also fielded in large quantities by the

bished at a Russian arsenal in the 1960s and left in storage. The specimen sent to *Soldier Of Fortune* for test and evaluation was manufactured in 1943 and came with a sling, web scope and receiver cover and leather scope lens caps. The bore was in new condition and the scope mount was engraved at the arsenal with both the rifle's and scope's serial numbers. All serial numbers on the rifle itself were matching. These Mosin-Nagant sniper systems can be purchased for less than \$400 — a price that borders on the incredible for a rifle and scope of

this historical significance.

The M1891 rifle was developed by Colonel Sergey Ivanovitch Mosin of the Russian artillery, who designed



Model PU 3.5-power scope has a reticle pattern that consists of a single, thick, pointed vertical post at the bottom of the field with thick horizontal sidebars. Scope mount was engraved at the arsenal with both the rifle's and scope's serial numbers.

the bolt and receiver, and the Belgian Emile Nagant, who was responsible for the magazine system. Model 1891 rifles have an octagonal-topped receiver. This was simplified to a rounded top on the Model 1891/30. The receiver is a mill-finished, one-piece drop forging, with the receiver ring bored and threaded to accept the barrel. Model 1891/30 rifles also have shorter barrels (28.7 inches vs. 31.6 inches) and a rear sight marked in meters instead of archines (one archine is approximately 28 inches). Mosin-Nagant barrels have four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.45 inches (240 mm). A twist this fast should, in theory, favor heavy bullets. This twist and bore diameter duplicates that of the caliber 7.62x25mm Tokarev pistol and PPSH41 submachine gun. It has been speculated that this was done so that the same machinery could be used to manufacture rifle, machine gun, submachine gun and pistol barrels.

Soviet Specs

With a weight of 8.7 pounds without scope, sling or bayonet — standard for this period — and an overall length of 48.1 inches, the M1891/30 rifle is awkward to carry and was supplemented by carbine versions throughout its production history. Mosin-Nagant carbines were never fitted with scopes.

The complex and unusual bolt consists of three components, excluding the firing pin: the body with the bolt handle (a long-stemmed, bent-down type on the sniper rifle), the recessed bolt head with two locking lugs and extractor, and a coupling unit which also serves as bolt guide. The extractor is a one-piece flat spring wedged in a slot and dovetailed

into the breech face.

The two opposed locking lugs, at the forward end of the bolt assembly, cam laterally into recesses on each side of the receiver, instead of vertically as in the case of the Mauser. Cocking occurs when the cocking piece is held back by the sear as the bolt is opened. There is no provision for propellant gases to escape out of the bolt or action in the event of a pierced primer or ruptured case.

The safety system is simple, but clumsy. No small amount of effort is required to manipulate the cocking piece, which must be pulled rearward against the firing pin's spring tension and turned counterclockwise about an eighth-turn. This holds the cocking piece and firing pin rearward. The flat steel ejector rests in a slot in the bottom left side of the receiver and projects inward. When the bolt is opened, the ejector travels in a

Russia's Version Of The .30-06

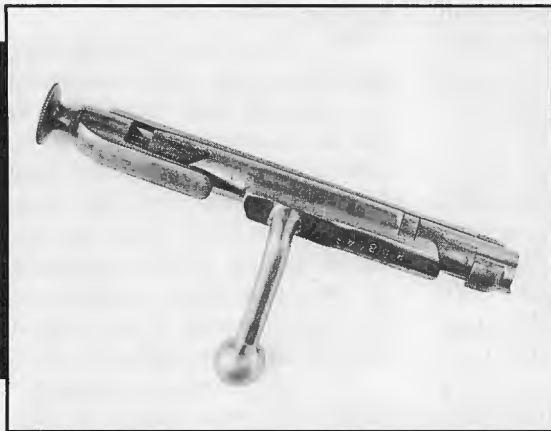
The Russian 7.62x54R cartridge has outlived some glorious military contemporaries, such as the French 8mm Lebel, .303 British and U.S. .30-06. Adopted in 1891 for the Mosin-Nagant bolt-action rifle, it's still going strong as a machine gun (PK series) and sniping (Dragunov) round.

First bullets for this cartridge were flat-based, round-nosed projectiles weighing approximately 200 grains. In 1908, an approximately 150-grain spitzer projectile with a conical hollow base (which expands to form a gas seal to enhance accuracy in worn barrels) was issued as the Type "L." In 1930, a boat-tail 182-grain projectile with lead-alloy core, designed as a long-range machine-gun round, was introduced as the Type "D" (heavy ball — yellow-tipped projectile color code). The current boat-tailed bullet, called the Type "LPS" (light ball — white- or silver-tipped projectile color code), has a mild steel core and weighs about 150 grains. This latter bullet leaves the muzzle at about 2,830 fps. Performance of this cartridge, and the various full metal jacket bullets developed for it, is equivalent to U.S. military .30-06 ball.

Except for commercial ammunition manufactured by Norma and in Yugoslavia for export to the United States, the brass, copper- or brass-washed steel or lacquered-steel rimmed cases are Berdan primed. Cases in this caliber can be instantly recognized by their peculiar partially-convex base contour. Bullets measure .311 inches in diameter. In addition to either heavy or light ball rounds, this caliber will be encountered with tracer, API, APIT and ranging high explosive incendiary (HEI) projectiles. The existence or not of match-grade ammunition for the M91/30 and Dragunov sniper rifles has puzzled cartridge collectors and small arms authorities alike. While I was in Izhevsk, Russia for the 75th birthday of Mikhail T. Kalashnikov, I was told by Alexi F. Dragunov and Victor Kalashnikov, project engineers at the Izhmash factory which manufactures the Dragunov sniper rifle, that match-grade ammunition for sniping is produced at the arsenal that uses headstamp code "188." However, only the cardboard box they are packed in notes that the cartridges are combat match-grade.

Since 1945, 7.62x54R ammunition has been manufactured in China, Bulgaria, the former Soviet Union, the former Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Hungary, Iraq, North Korea, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Syria and Yugoslavia.

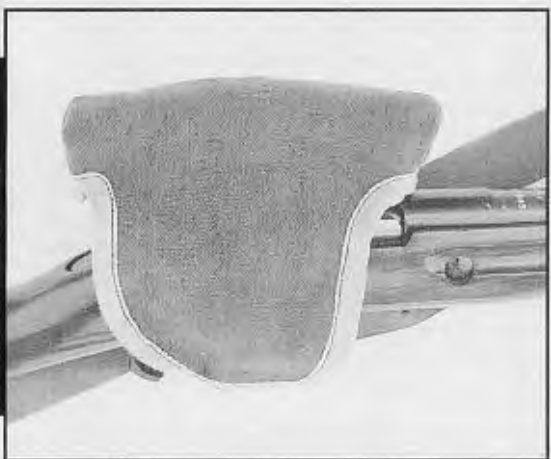
— P.G.K.



The Mosin-Nagant's complex and unusual bolt consists of three components, excluding the firing pin: the body with the bolt handle (a long-stemmed, bent-down type on the sniper rifle), the recessed bolt head with two locking lugs and extractor, and a coupling unit which also serves as bolt guide.

groove in the bolt head to strike the cartridge rim and propel the empty case out of the action. The ejector is both retained and tensioned by the Mosin-Nagant magazine's peculiar feed interrupter. This bent piece of spring steel, fixed to the receiver by a screw, holds down the second round in the magazine, permitting the top cartridge to feed and move forward without pressure from below. This feed interrupter helps to eliminate jams and is not released until final rotation of the bolt.

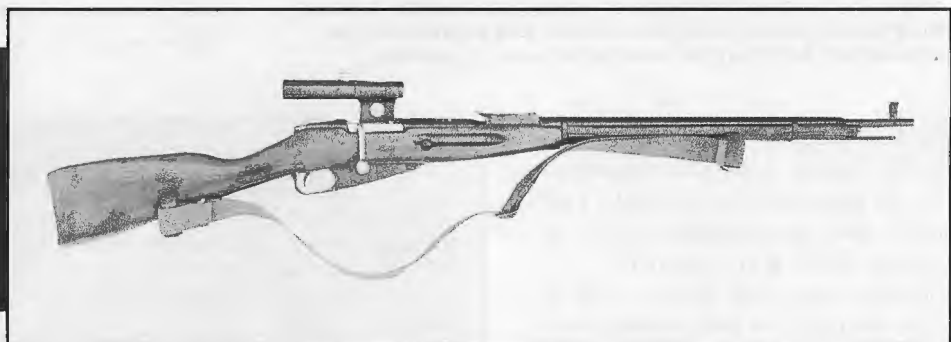
For purposes of unloading and maintenance, the magazine floorplate can be released by a spring-loaded catch. Magazine capacity is only five rounds. The rifle is loaded



Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 sniper rifle, as imported by Century International Arms Inc., is supplied with a sling, web scope and receiver cover (shown here) and leather scope lens caps.

from five-round stripper clips, but they cannot be used with the scope in place.

The trigger is attached to the receiver by a thick pin between two integral lugs on the receiver. The flat-spring sear is held to the receiver by a screw. The rear end of the sear passes through a hole in the trigger and projects through a hole in the receiver into the locking lug raceway. A single-stage-type, the trigger pull weight on our test specimen was 5.25 pounds. With more



The M1891/30 rifle is both robust and reliable, but the Model PU 3.5-power scope rests too far above the bore's axis for the shooter to obtain a proper cheek weld — the all-important factor in repeating the same sight picture and alignment each and every time the operator strokes the trigger.

than its share of excessive slack, the trigger is not clean breaking and, in fact, the pull weight seems to increase in proportion to the pressure applied. As the trigger is pulled, the cocking piece is literally cammed downward.

Almost full-length, the buttstock ends with a metal cap just 3.5 inches from the muzzle. Of poor grade, the wood furniture on these rifles is usually stained and varnished or painted. Two metal barrel bands retain the top handguard. The buttstock carries a cleaning rod under the barrel in the conventional manner for this period. The steel buttplate is smooth. A web sling is

attached to leather straps that run through two slots in the buttstock in the style peculiar to this rifle series. There is a finger groove on either side of the stock just under the receiver. A recoil crossbolt at this location all too frequently loosens and permits the barreled action to move about in the stock. This does nothing to assist the accuracy potential.

Sight radius of the M91/30 is 24.5 inches. A round, post-type front sight is threaded into the protective hood which can be drifted in its dovetail on the barrel for windage zero. The post can be rotated by inserting a tool through the top of the hood for elevation zero. A sliding tangent rear sight carries an open U-notch and can be adjusted for elevation only from 100 to 2,000 meters — a typical

fantasy of this era.

The so-called "PU" 3.5-power scope is the prevalent and worst of the two. Only 6.75 inches long, it sits too far forward on the receiver. Worse yet, it rests too far above the bore's axis for the shooter to obtain a proper cheek weld — the all-important factor in repeating the same sight picture and alignment each and every time the operator strokes the trigger.

The reticle pattern was copied from that used by the Germans since World War I. It consists of a single, thick, pointed vertical post at the bottom of the field of view with thick horizontal sidebars. This format excels in subdued light and offers faster target acquisition than standard cross hairs. However, it diminishes the shooter's potential to shoot tight groups from a benchrest. As there is no range-finding capability, the sniper

Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 Sniper Rifle Specifications

Caliber:	7.62x54R.
Operation:	Bolt-action with two opposed front locking lugs camming laterally into receiver recesses; cocks on opening; cocking piece must be pulled rearward and turned counterclockwise to engage safety.
Feed:	Five-round integral magazine with peculiar feed interrupter.
Weight:	8.7 pounds, without scope, sling or bayonet.
Length, overall:	48.1 inches.
Barrel:	Four-groove with right-hand twist of one turn in 9.45 inches (240 mm).
Barrel length:	28.7 inches.
Sights:	Round, post-type front sight with protective hood, adjustable for both elevation and windage zero; sliding tangent-type rear sight with an open U-notch adjustable for elevation only to 2,000 meters in 100-meter increments.
Optical sight:	"PU" 3.5-power scope with external elevation knob adjustable in 100-meter increments from zero to 1,300 meters. Reticle pattern consists of a single, thick, pointed vertical post at the bottom of the field of view with thick horizontal sidebars.
Finish:	Blued metal components except for the bolt group, which was left "in the white."
Furniture:	Wood buttstock and top handguard with steel barrel bands, front cap and buttplate.
Manufacturer:	Various Soviet arsenals.
Status:	No longer in service.
Importer:	Century International Arms Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 714, St. Albans, VT 05478; phone: 800-527-1252; fax: 802-527-0470.
Price:	Under \$400, complete with 3.5-power "PU" scope, sling, web scope and receiver cover and leather scope lens caps.
T&E summary:	A robust and reliable rifle with an accuracy potential comparable to its contemporaries. But, with a scope mounted too high above bore's axis for a proper cheek weld, a coarse reticle pattern, poor trigger pull and lack of match-grade ammunition in this caliber, it fails to meet current standards for a sniper weapon system. However, it remains a historical artifact of great interest at reasonable price.

Ammunition from three countries was used in our accuracy test of this rifle: Bulgaria, China and Yugoslavia. The Bulgarian ammunition (headstamped with a star "3 48" Cyrillic "B") was Type "L" ball with a full copper-alloy jacket, conical hollow base, steel-cored spitzer bullet weighing 146.8 grains, nominal. The brass case was two-hole Berdan-primed with a red primer annulus. The powder was an extruded, tubular kernel IMR-type with a charge weight of 52.0 grains, nominal.

The Chinese ball (headstamped "61 79") was Type "LPS" with a full copper-alloy jacket, a steel-cored, boat-tail bullet weighing 148.6 grains, nominal. The copper-washed steel case was two-hole Berdan-primed. The powder was an extruded, tubular kernel IMR-type with a charge weight of 45.1 grains, nominal.

The Yugoslavian ammunition (headstamped Cyrillic "ny 1986") was Type "D" with a 181.3-grain (nominal) boat-tail bullet with a full copper-alloy jacket that extended slightly below the lead core at the base. Manufactured for export to the United States, the brass case was Boxer-primed with a purple primer annulus. The powder was an extruded, tubular kernel IMR-type with a charge weight of 46.9 grains, nominal.

The best groups were provided by the Bulgarian Type "L" ball, which, from a sand-bagged rest off the bench would consistently shoot to about 2.3 MOA at 100 yards. The Yugoslavian Type "D" ball was only slightly less accurate and produced approximately 2.6 MOA groups. The Chinese Type "LPS" ball, for which I have never had a high regard, shot close to 3 inches.

Match-grade ammunition would have undoubtedly diminished the group dispersion substantially (some of these rifles will shoot just under 1 MOA with the proper ammunition). But even so, the M91/30 sniper rifle has a number of idiosyncrasies that are difficult to overcome. As previously mentioned, the scope sits too high above the bore's axis for the shooter to obtain a proper and consistent cheek weld. Furthermore, the reticle pattern is entirely too coarse for precision shooting, the trigger pull is awful and the stock-to-barrel inter-

Continued on page 78

must estimate the range and rotate the external elevation knob on the top of the scope, which is adjustable in 100-meter increments from zero to 1,300 meters. It seems more than a little odd that the supposed effective range of this rifle is reduced from 2,000 to 1,300 meters by the addition of a telescopic sight.

Another external knob on the left side of the scope tube permits windage adjustments. The scope mount is attached to the left side of the receiver. Although it can be adjusted for initial zero by means of two opposing screws, it is not designed to be detached by the operator.

Magnified Recoil

SOF's test and evaluation of this rifle was conducted with the use of the optical sight only. First of all, let me say that in my opinion, although only a .30 caliber, this rifle kicks like hell, and I am not recoil sensitive. It fires a full-size military rifle cartridge and its 19th century designers had very little knowledge concerning "human engineering." The buttstock's club-like configuration, if anything, seems to magnify perceived recoil. That said, the Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 is an incredibly robust and reliable rifle.

It Takes One

SOF On The Ground In Gaza

Text & Photos by
Mark H. Milstein

The relative calm of the tense Gaza Strip was shattered by an extraordinary terrorist explosion earlier this year. After Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) was given semi-independent control, the bombings had slacked off: This explosion was extraordinary not merely because it happened, but because it was an accident that took out a clandestine bomb factory and with it Kamal Kaheil, a leading activist in the al Qassam Brigade, the military wing of *Hamas*.

Hamas ("zeal" in Arabic) is the acronym for *Harakat al-Muzawasa al-Islamiya* — The Islamic Resistance Movement, viewed as the world's deadliest terrorist organization.

When Kaheil launched himself and



Lt. Mohammed H. Qedrah, right, and 1st Sgt. Ziyad Alwaly prepare to enter a PLO barracks in Gaza during nighttime commando training. Although short on equipment, the Hamas Hunters are long on training.



Sunset in Gaza: Armed with Jordanian-supplied U.S. M16 rifles, the Hamas Hunters of the Palestinian Authority's police department begin their nightly street patrol.

several other Gazans to a one-on-one meeting with Allah, he nearly provoked a civil war between the PA and Hamas. Within minutes of the explosion, recalled Lieutenant Mohammed H. Qedrah, a junior officer with the PA police department's elite strike force, unofficially known as the "Hamas Hunters," he had dozens of his men on the streets of Zaitoun — the fundamentalist stronghold within Gaza City — "restoring order and making house calls" in a sweep that eventually put almost 200 suspected Hamas members behind bars. It wasn't enough.

Mere days later, Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists went on a suicide-bomb rampage, killing a number of Israeli Defense Force soldiers near settlements in the Gaza Strip and threatening violence against Yasir Arafat and the PA itself if prisoners weren't released and tensions weren't reduced. Hamas warned the PA that they had crossed the "red line": Blood, Palestinian blood, would soon flood the streets of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho. "It was a very difficult time for us," said First Sergeant Ziyad Alwaly, the Hamas Hunters' training instructor. "We had all experienced the Israeli occupation, the

Intifada, and many of us had been in jail and fought for our freedom, so we could understand where Hamas was coming from. But we are trying to build a state here, and we want our people to be free from violence."

The Hamas movement began to



In his distinctive blue-camouflage uniform, a Hamas Hunter rests atop a jeep with his Jordanian army-donated M16 while scanning the area for trouble.

To Catch One?

With PLO *Anti-Terrorist Unit*

surface in the late 1980s, a combination philosophy and call-to-arms with its roots in Zaitoun's politically powerful mosques and the dozens of refugee camps and villages that define Gaza and the West Bank. The shadowy group traces its philosophical birth back to the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian fundamentalist movement that rejects Western "evils" and calls for the creation of an Islamic state based on the teachings of the Koran. Like the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, Hamas draws support from its deep involvement in Gaza's teaming slums and camps, where it has established numerous clinics, mosques and schools.

Western terrorism experts estimate that membership in al Qassam Brigade numbers no more than a few hundred men, with weapons being funneled into their hands through Egypt and raids on Israeli forces warehouses. They theorize that most Hamas funding comes from abroad, but not exclusively from radical Muslim governments such as Iran, Sudan and Libya. According to Israeli government sources, substantial support comes from private backers in Western nations, including the United States, where organizations such as the Dallas-based Islamic Association for Palestine publish and distribute its pamphlets.

But the ties between U.S. groups and Hamas are unclear, and many of the American organizations that spread the Hamas message also raise funds for good causes in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli sources also say that cracks are beginning to appear in Hamas' facade, because despite ideological unanimity in the Islamic movement, there have always been divisions concerning the use and scope of violence, especially inside



The only heavy weapon the Hamas Hunters possess is this aging 12.7 Degtyarev on an improvised mount — but their primary attackers use small arms and improvised bombs.

the Gaza Strip, where PA rules, but where there are also Israeli settlements and army patrols.

Sheikh Imad Falouji, who heads the Islamic Society and is a senior editor of the Hamas weekly *Al-Watan* — closed by the PA for incitement in May — said recently that although Hamas was in contact with the PA and Israel, it was "too early even to talk of the range and timetable of a cease-fire." Another senior Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Baher, has continuously denied reports that Hamas had already decided to denounce violence and run as a political party. But word from nominal Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, now in Israeli custody, is that Hamas wants to renounce violence and become a viable part of the political structure developing in Gaza.

Search For An Arms Smuggler

With the last calls to prayer still echoing from the minarets of Zaitoun's

Palestinian mosque, Qeddrah and Alwaly gather their squad of 16 men for last minute instructions before piling into their blue vehicles and heading out on patrol. Qeddrah has broken the squad into three groups, with two groups of six men assigned to a pre-routed foot patrol and the remaining four men assigned as a vehicle-based rapid reaction team if any of the foot patrols stumble into trouble.

Qeddrah, 27, a graduate of the Cairo, Egypt, police academy and an Intifada veteran, announces that he will walk the city's business center and remain in radio contact with his men throughout the evening's nine-hour tour. While his men are armed with an odd assortment of weaponry, including Egyptian and Bulgarian Kalashnikovs, Jordanian-supplied M16s, Beretta M92s, Spanish-made Goldstar and Egyptian Helwan 9mm



This Gaza mosque is suspected by the Palestinian Secret Service of being a Hamas stronghold — note "religious" graphics on wall at right.



Members of Hamas Hunters stand at unusual parade rest during funeral for senior PLO leader. The torch may have passed, but peace has not yet come to Gaza.

pistols, Qeddrah opts to go on duty with only a walkie-talkie and his "faith in God."

Qeddrah drives along with the rapid reaction team as far as Gaza's business center, then gets out and begins walking toward the stretch of stores that border Zaitoun. "We're looking for this man," Qeddrah says, holding out a photocopied photograph of a young man who looks like Jerry Garcia with a severe attitude problem. "If we find him, he won't put up a fight. He will come in without a problem," he tells us.

Qeddrah says the man is thought to have additional information about a Hamas weapons cache unearthed the previous week by Palestinian military intelligence teams, led by Brigadier General Musa Arafat. In a well-hidden bunker beneath a chicken coop in Zaitoun, Arafat's men, aided by the Hamas Hunters and the Secret

Service, had discovered dozens of automatic weapons and ammunition magazines, explosives, military uniforms and forged documents that Hamas could use to travel between Israel and Gaza. Two men associated with Hamas were arrested immediately, but the man who Qeddrah must question is suspected of being the go-between for the local Hamas cell guard-

tween Qeddrah, the first patrol and the second patrol that is still on its pre-planned patrol. "We walk a very thin line with the people who live here," Qeddrah says. "They are all not yet used to the idea of having authority over them, especially Palestinians with guns and ties to Hamas. Those people see us like the Israelis. I don't want



PLO flag flies above barbed wire of Al Saraya, the PLO military and security services operations center in the Gaza Strip. Headquarters (inset) is in central Gaza City.

that. I want peace with my people. Many people still don't trust us," Qeddrah continued. "We wear a uniform, and for some of them we are just as bad as the Israelis."

Finally, Qeddrah arrives at the man's last-known address. Already, children and a number of neighborhood women have announced Qeddrah's arrival, and tension on the

ing the weapons and for men who intended to use them in a future terrorist raid.

Qeddrah calls for his first team to walk a parallel course with him as he begins asking locals, out for a cool night's walk, if they know this man: no luck. The rapid reaction team radios that it's now back in the center city, almost half-way be-

street ratchets up a notch or two. Qeddrah continues to act unphased by their reaction to his presence, making his way toward the rear of a dirty cinder-block building that may contain either his suspect or a bullet to the head. Qeddrah comes into the building's courtyard and faces the open door of the house. An old woman in traditional clothes sits in front of the door, staring at the blue-bereted Qeddrah: "He is not here," the woman quickly tells Qeddrah. "He has gone to Egypt."

Qeddrah radios the rapid-reaction team, and moments later is riding back to police headquarters empty-handed. Qeddrah says that while his men might not act like "cowboys," storming nightly into Zaitoun hoping to shoot it out with suspected Hamas members, "We are all trained in commando tactics. We can enter a house and disarm a man or storm a building using little or no force."

House To House Training

Indeed, the next evening Qeddrah and Alwaly assemble some of the 400 men under their command for a series of training exercises that culminates in the "storming" of a barracks containing a "gunman" without firing a shot. "I think we both would prefer better weapons than we have, but this is what we have to work with," Qeddrah said, referring to

his American-made rifle. "I don't like the M16. It's not an effective weapon for going into a house. Look, I can barely swing it through the doorway. The UZI would be best, but the Israelis would never allow us to have them."

Alwaly, 31, said he prefers to do commando ops with a submachine gun or a pistol. "The Dutch use UZIs and other small, light weapons to attack houses," he said. "We should ultimately have the same weapons." Alwaly said he received months of drill-instructor training from Dutch police specialists who visited Gaza last summer. Qeddrah received similar training during three months of schooling in Bucharest, Rumania, just after the creation of the PA police department in mid-1994. "I had already had military experience as a soldier in the PLO," Alwaly said, "but



the Dutch instructors helped me learn how to teach my men the correct way to use shields and batons and control crowds using the minimal amount of force." Both said their weapons wish-list would include stun grenades, tasers, a water cannon, CS gas, rubber or plastic bullets, and some sort of armored assault vehicles — but both agreed that with funding for PA police activities at near zero, their equipment needs were not likely to be filled.

Although the blue-camouflage uniformed "Hunters" are the PA's most visible weapon in the fight against terrorism, the Authority also employs



Palestinian Authority border patrol officer along the Gaza-Egypt border near Rafah, Gaza Strip, carries Egyptian 7.62x39mm Misr AKM copy.

the powers of a growing Secret Service to gather intelligence on the inner workings of Hamas and others intent on destroying the Middle East peace process. Accompanied by Mr. Momdoh, my Yugoslavian-educated Secret Service "press assistant," I was driven over to Al Saraya, the PA's giant combination army base, prison and security complex in the center of Gaza City, for some serious back-grounding on the inner-workings of the Secret Service. "Our job is to stop the problem before it becomes a problem," said Colonel Abu Nedal Affie, the director of the Secret Service. "If a problem occurs, then we haven't done our job."

We Were The Hunted

Affie explained that although the Palestinian Secret Service has yet to produce any James Bonds, his men

know their quarry well. "We draw upon our large experience from exile," Affie said. "We were all once freedom fighters and warriors. Who better to track down our enemies than those who know them like they know themselves?" At the newly opened Secret Service training academy in Khan Yunis, a small town west of Gaza City, the tone is the same. The

academy's ultra-secretive director, Col. X, tells me that before an agent can begin service he must complete a "brain-draining" 45 hours of instruction in physical training, intelligence gathering, law, weapons handling, human rights and ethics.

"We don't issue badges to our of-

Continued on page 85

Boarding House for Burnt-Out Bombers

Their arms are too arthritic to toss grenades into crowded airport lounges, and many no longer have the strength to push wheelchair-bound Jews over the railings of Italian luxury liners or slap home that last banana clip, but retirement for over-the-hill terrorists is looking brighter — thanks to the PLO and its faithful rank-and-file.

With a few thousand dollars in seed money and the donation of a nondescript apartment house just up the road from Gaza's garbage-choked beaches, the Palestinian Authority recently opened its first home for pensioned terrorists.

Under the direction of Mohammed El Azawe, himself a veteran of the PLO's battle for Beirut and the Intifada, the home provides for the "social, moral, psychological and emotional needs of the many faithful who gave their support to fighting for Palestinian freedom."

"We provide a place where our ex-warriors can come and talk about their problems with those who can understand what they are going through," Azawe said.

Azawe said the former fighters themselves came up with the idea for the memorial mural to the heroes of the revolution that spans the large wall in the home's main meeting hall. Aging freedom fighters, or anyone else for that matter, are welcome to use the room to pray at anytime, Azawe said, pointing to the wall and its cloth banner depicting revolutionary heroes.

One graying fighter, who would only give his name as Walid, said many of the former warriors and their families are themselves refugees, and so have no other place to turn to for help. Jihad said that the association now houses two families, sharing an apartment on the upper floor of the two-story building. "We will soon have an entire network of such homes throughout Gaza and the West Bank to care for our fighters," Azawe said. "We are not getting any younger, and someday we will have to lay down our weapons."

— M.M.



Hospice for Holy Warriors: Retirement apartment, provided by the Palestinian Revolution Old Fighters Association in Gaza, features a prayer room with portraits (inset, from left) of PLO official Abdul Hamce Aboal Hol, international terrorist George Habash, Abu Jihad, Yasir Arafat, PLO ideologue Slah Khalaf and Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.



This story is the last front-line dispatch from Colonel Robert MacKenzie. Soldier, gentleman and patron of worthy military campaigns, Col. MacKenzie was KIA in Sierra Leone last February by "Revolutionary United Front" terrorists (see "Death of a Warrior," July '95). Prior to accepting the position as trainer of a newly formed Sierra Leone commando unit, MacKenzie served with the HVO under Brigadier Zelko Glasnovic in Bosnia. This dispatch was prepared posthumously from his notes.



Major Bob MacKenzie (beret) when he was commander of the recon team in Bosnia. Photo: courtesy Sibyl MacKenzie

will amalgamate into one army, and such a union would probably last as long as they have a common enemy in the Serbs.

On the other side, the Bosnian Serbs have proclaimed a Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which they would like to expand and consolidate. Until quite recently they have gotten much logistical and other support from Serbia. These Serbs in Bosnia, commonly called "Chetniks," are strong in heavy weapons; the BiH is strong in infantry, and the HVO strongest in terms of leadership.

SOF Editor's Final

Col. Bob MacKenzie's Last Tour In Bosnia

The situation at Bihac, the embattled town 100 miles to our north, bore heavily on the minds of all ranks in the First Guards Brigade of the HVO (the Bosnian Croat army in Bosnia). One in the Byzantine ar-



Will the fighting up at Bihac boil over onto the First Guards Brigade? Are my troops ready? Commander Brigadier Zelko Glasnovic reflects on the situation. On 28 October he gave his troops the warning order: On 1 November they drove east while Serb forces were concentrated to the north, ultimately liberating Kupres.

ray of combatants and allegiances in this most Balkan of wars, the HVO is stationed in central Bosnia. They are allied with the predominantly Muslim Bosnian government army (BiH).

Setting aside historical differences, these allies have conducted successful joint operations against the Bosnian Serb forces: It is expected that at some point the BiH and HVO

We were all concerned with the implications of the heavy fighting around Bihac, and whether we would be drawn into it. On 28 October our commander, Brigadier Zelko Glasnovic, answered that question with a warning order for an assault on the Serbs' southern lines, which had been left vulnerable by their concentration of forces to the north.



Plans called for HVO artillery to begin softening up Serb lines just before H-hour.



Former Soviet D-30 122mm howitzers prep Serb positions before HVO assault; after assault they were open for fire missions on specific targets.

Saggers, Fag-gots (known as Spiggots in the U.S. Army) and other wire-guided mis-siles. Almost unbelievably, the brigade was ready on time and we deployed to our assembly areas. As commander of the brigade

recon platoon comprised of local troops, but they were assigned to other tasks in the opening phases of the operation.

H-hour was supposed to be 0430 on 1 November. Several other HVO formations were also involved in the attack, and for various reasons H-hour was delayed several hours.

Meanwhile, in the freezing darkness, First Guards Brigade moved to the start line with two battalions up and one in reserve. Our anti-tank detachments were moving with the infantry companies and our T-55s were

Firefights

Text & Photos by Col. Robert MacKenzie



This has not been an air war, but obsolescent AA weapons adapt readily for infantry use. Here HVO troopers prepare ZPU variant to give suppressive fire on ground targets.

First Guards' barracks became the site of frantic activity as we shifted from "peacetime" training to preparation for combat operations. The infantry companies drew small arms, ammunition and grenades, filled magazines, inspected individual equipment and speculated on what for most would be their first experience in real combat. Our armor contingent loaded their T-55s and BMPs; artillery men checked their guns and our anti-tank company tested their

commander's recon-naissance team, I was leading six other foreigners, all of whom had a great deal of military experience. In addition we had two English-speaking HVO soldiers as interpreters. We were all looking forward to seeing some action. The brigade also had a

in overwatch. Our artillery fire plan called for initial preparatory bombardment to begin just prior to H-hour, with targets on call thereafter. Finally at 0730 our leading companies crossed the start line.

Amazingly, we caught the Serbs



HVO soldier waits on a target for his RPG-7 variant, the ubiquitous AT weapon of vest-pocket wars.



All three parties in the Bosnian conflict have armor, but there have been few, if any, actual armor engagements. In the drive on Kupres, tanks such as this HVO T-55 were used in armor/infantry-assault role, but tanks of both sides are more often dug in, or used as self-propelled artillery.

by surprise and resistance was light, with the Serbs fleeing in the face of our artillery and tank fire. Several pockets of resistance were neutralized by a combination of 120mm mortars, 107mm and 122mm rockets, and the 100mm guns on our T-55s. By 1430 enemy resistance was crumbling



Warning order put First Guards Brigade on notice: Now you will fight like you have trained. Here they train (top to bottom) in heliborne, infantry/armor, and infantry assault tactics. If success of operation that retook Kupres from Serbs is a measure, training was good.

all along our front and three Serbian tanks on the right flank were spotted pulling out of their positions and speeding away from the front line. A Fagot wire-guided missile accounted for one of them. For the rest of the afternoon our infantry advanced through the thickly wooded hills, and just before evening the Serbian

forces on our right broke and the reserve battalion was committed to exploit the breach. By nightfall all of our units were well past their initial objectives. Since neither side does much fighting at night, we stopped and dug in while the Serbs continued to withdraw.

On the second day of the operation my group, which had been at brigade HQ in reserve, was tasked with reconnaissance of a road on our right flank. The nine of us set out into thick fog shortly after first light. Moving slowly through the fog across a couple of kilometers of open ground, we paused often to listen for enemy activity and were relieved to enter the forest before the fog lifted. Proceeding cautiously through the woods parallel to the road, we reached the place where a Serbian tank had been hit by a missile the day before. A few pieces of metal, a good deal of blackened earth and the body of a Serbian tanker were all that remained — the tank had apparently been recovered during the night.

Continuing our reconnaissance up the road we



MacKenzie's recon team deployed well forward of lines, using .50 sniper rifles and Yugo 82mm M79 recoilless gun to harass Serbs. It drew their attention, and an orchestrated shelling on their position.

started coming upon well-built Serbian log bunkers. Fortunately they were empty. When we were about 7 kilometers in front of our lines we were told to stop and wait for the infantry to catch up. By the time they reached us it was after lunch and since their instructions were to proceed no farther, we went forward another kilometer and found a small ridge from which we could watch Serbs abandoning their positions in front of us. We watched for the rest of the afternoon and then returned to HQ. Along the rest of the brigade front the advance was disappointingly slow in the face of light or no opposition other than a few land mines.

D+2 saw us in reconnaissance again, this time moving through forested hills trying to get around the enemy's flanks and into position where we could observe their HQ in a village called Rilic. The rest of the battlefield echoed with the sounds of artillery fire as Serbian positions were shelled. About 1100 my team got into position overlooking Rilic. HVO intelligence sources had told us that Rilic would be heavily defended by hundreds of troops with armor and artillery support, so we were surprised when our first glimpse indicated no activity.

Creeping through the woods into the outskirts of town, we confirmed that Rilic had in fact been evacuated. There was not a soldier to be seen, but there were mess tins, gas masks, overcoats and blankets strewn all over the place. Radioing the news back to HQ, we moved into a secure ruin and



In the catch-as-catch-can ordnance supply of those fighting the Serbs, South African Armscor 40mm grenade launcher is a favored close-support weapon.

waited impatiently for the brigade to catch up, since nine men are a bit sparse to hold an entire town. The lead elements finally arrived at about 1330, and brigade HQ and the rest of the brigade followed, so that by nightfall we were firmly in possession.

Countering A Counterattack

Morning came with rumors of a Serb counter-attack. To preempt any such action the brigade commander ordered artillery fire on likely enemy assembly areas and no attack materialized. In fact

Continued on page 73



With Serb forces concentrated around fighting near Bihac to the north, First Guards Brigade drove east, liberating Kupres, which had been under Serb control since April 1992.

CHRISTMAS IN KUPRES

Mad Max could move into Kupres and feel right at home. Originally a town of some 8,000 Croats, Kupres was captured by the Serbs in April 1992 when 16 tanks drove across the gigantic fields adjacent to the town, cut the road, and laid the town to waste. The defending forces fought fiercely and then retreated through the mountains to the east, back to the nearest town, Tomislavgrad. In the process Kupres took quite a pounding and most houses no longer sport roofs or a full complement of walls. Nonetheless, Serbs moved into the remaining intact structures, and the factories that supported life in Kupres continued to hum along, including one which produced military uniforms and equipment. Then in November 1994 Kupres was recaptured by the Bosnian Croats.

Christmas 1994 found Kupres in a rather bedraggled state. No civilians have had the temerity to move back in; the factories are quiet; and services are in short supply: no heat, no electricity, no telephones, no restaurants, no shops, and (oh my God!) no bars. And, oh yes, no municipal trash removal. Cold grips Kupres and its rococo piles of rubbish with icy fingers and only the odd, lean dog slinks between the burned out cars. There aren't even many dogs, since some of the less likable lads have indulged their boyish playfulness by smashing every intact window in the town and shooting most of the dogs.

During my first three days in Kupres I lived in a garage, sharing the rest of the house and our one generator-fed light bulb with the foreign reconnaissance team. Then I moved to an elegant house discovered by the communications group that bristled with their antennas for eavesdropping on the Serbs. Furnishings, clothes, kitchen ware, even bathtub toys were still in the house, which had obviously been vacated in some haste.

From the comfort of a real bed I listened to incoming shells rattle the windows. Next door, a hot poker game was briefly interrupted by the arrival of an armor piercing shell in the living room below, and I went to admire the 3-foot hole in the outer cinder-block wall and the smaller holes in the next two masonry walls.

Although amenities were lacking, food was plentiful. Each soldier was issued an entire loaf of bread, a massive amount of sausage, packages of cheese, tangerines, bacon and his share of the communal goulash each day. Unused loaves of bread stuck out of the trash piles like long beige fingers and, when the snow came, created interesting sculptural shapes. Sometimes whole, raw chickens or fish were issued, and the soldiers would rally their peculiar cooking talents and produce wonders on the old-fashioned wood stoves that provided both heat and culinary curiosities. And, of course, from somewhere appeared quantities of Lose (pronounced LO-sa), the local homebrew made in recycled plastic soda bottles, which went down fiery but produced remarkably little hangover.

Whenever I told anyone that I was staying in Kupres, the inevitable reply was, "Oh, Kupres is the coldest place in Bosnia." I already knew that! Three pairs of socks and two pairs of long underwear barely cut the pervasive chill. One cannot envy the soldiers in their bunkers during the long reaches of January and February.

There is a bizarre, frozen quality to Kupres in addition to the ice and snow. It has to do with knowing that soldiers have fought here for thousands of years. Today, while digging to fill sandbags to buttress a bunker, we unearthed the boot, foot and lower leg bones of another, forgotten defender who probably spent identical frozen holidays in Kupres — sort of a ghost of Christmases past.

— Bob MacKenzie

THE LOST COMMANDOS

Allies Forgotten In Battle, Abandoned In Peace

by Dale Andradé

Under cover of darkness seven shadowy figures walked across the tarmac to a waiting C-130 cargo plane at Camp Long Thanh, just outside Saigon. With the men aboard, the plane climbed into the sky — just another military flight over South Vietnam. Or so it seemed. In reality this was a highly classified mission, part of a long-running covert operation with the benign name of Operational Plan 34A. The program fell under the authority of a highly classified organization called the Studies and Observations Group (SOG).

The date was 21 September 1967 and the team was code-named Red Dragon, one of the last covert missions launched into North Vietnam. Their target was in Ha Giang Province, the northernmost point of North Vietnam — a mere 25 miles from the Chinese border. Here lay the head of the Red River Valley, a major supply route between China and North Vietnam.

Poor weather scattered the team as it dropped through the dark, leaving them disorganized. The commandos were on the ground for a month

before they made radio contact, and then SOG suspected they had been “turned” and were sending false messages. Red Dragon was last heard from in June 1969 and declared dead by SOG.

But most of the team was still alive. Captured within a month of their insertion, the commandos spent the rest of the war in fetid North Vietnamese prisons, the same fate that awaited most 34A teams during the course of the war. Over an eight-year period, more than 50 teams were sent into North Vietnam either by air or boat. Every single member was captured, killed or simply disappeared.

Cannon Fodder Commandos

Operational Plan 34A goes back almost to the inception of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Beginning in 1960 the CIA ran operations into Laos and North Vietnam, and by late 1963 the Agency had reportedly placed more than 100 agents inside the North. But most were confirmed either lost or turned. A few teams — mostly those inserted by boat along the coast — managed to conduct hit-and-run missions.

From a military point of view this would never be decisive. In fact, documents contained in the *Pentagon Papers* show that proponents believed the covert program's main objective was only to demonstrate Washington's seriousness about stemming communist aggression: “an implicit,



Team Cancer during frogman training at Da Nang. Duong Long Sang (second from right) was captured during a mission June 1963 and held until 12 May 1982. INS refused to allow him to immigrate to the United States because of “failure to prove prior association” with SOG. Photo: courtesy author

symbolic and psychological intensification of the U.S. commitment." In other words, just the threat behind the covert actions was hoped to be enough to persuade Hanoi to stop meddling in the South.

Concerned the CIA was too small to run the expanding program, it was transferred to the military in January 1964. William E. Colby, then-CIA chief of East Asian operations, was more than happy to relinquish it. He later recalled, "We in the CIA had pretty well determined that it wasn't working. The military's line was that the CIA was too small to continue running the program."

There were also serious doubts within the military. "While we are wholly in favor of executing the covert actions against North Vietnam," Joint Chiefs Chairman General Maxwell Taylor wrote to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara in mid-1964, "it would be idle to conclude that these efforts will have a decisive effect."

Still, 34A went forward. For the next four years, teams were inserted into North Vietnam only to be snapped up by an efficient and ruthless communist internal police system. Some were sent straight to prison; others were "persuaded" to send back false information to South Vietnam. According to one American



Camp Long Thanh in 1967: Most 34A commando teams trained at this secret base outside Saigon. Photo: courtesy Ken Conboy

military officer close to the program, "It got to the point that we simply assumed that much of the information being sent by the teams was phony. On the other hand, we, in turn used the program to feed a lot of false intelligence to the North Vietnamese."

This also seemed to be the opinion of military planners in Washington. "The mission and effectiveness of the long-term agent teams were in a state of continuous reevaluation from 1965 until the summer of 1968, when all teams were judged as badly compromised," one high-level report concluded. "During this period of

time, thinking changed from the belief that the teams represented a valuable asset in accomplishing SOG's mission to the later opinion [in November 1968] that the long-term agent teams were a complete failure in terms of intelligence produced."

Yet it was not failure that finally ended Operational Plan 34A. Rather, it fell victim to tightening political constraints on the war. In November 1968, harried by public opinion, President Lyndon B. Johnson banned the bombing of North Vietnam. The ban covered all flights into the North, including the still secret 34A missions. Without the bombing halt, 34A might very well have continued feeding commandos into North Vietnam's prisons right up until the fall of Saigon.

Red Dragon, Red Tape

For Nguyen Huu Tan the debate was meaningless. He jumped into North Vietnam with Team Red Dragon, proudly serving his country as an elite *Biet Kich* (special commando) aimed at the very heart of his hated enemy. But pride turned to fear when the North Vietnamese closed in on his disorganized team, and fear turned to despair as his time in a communist prison dragged on. Like most of his compatriots, Tan remained behind bars until Hanoi's ultimate victory in 1975, despite a clause in the 1973 Paris Peace Accords mandating that "all captured Vietnamese military personnel, whether belonging to regular or irregular armed forces, shall be returned..."



Team Samson during training at Camp Long Thanh. The commandos were dropped near North Vietnamese border in October 1966. After two months they were not heard from again. La Van Tinh (bottom row, second from left) spent 10 years in prison, but INS ruled he could not come to the United States because he had not spent enough time in a reeducation camp. Photo: courtesy author

Commandos with the 34A program should have fallen within this category but North Vietnam chose not to release them. Neither the United

States nor South Vietnam made a single complaint. Washington certainly knew that the commandos were still in prison — documents show that SOG tracked the status of each team through at least the middle of 1970.



Team Buffalo was dropped into North Vietnam in June 1964 and was immediately captured and placed on trial in Hanoi. Photo: courtesy Ken Conboy

In the end, of course, those two years of freedom would have meant little. In 1975 the communist victors swept up those who had served Saigon and placed them in "reeducation camps." At the top of the list of those needing reeducation were the commandos. Tan and his compatriots (about 200 had survived the war) went straight from prison into camps where they endured back-breaking physical labor and endless political indoctrination. Few fell for the propaganda, but most said whatever was necessary to get through the ordeal.

Today the 34A commandos are all "free" from the camps, but none have been able to take up where their lives left off. The term *Biet Kich* has become synonymous with traitor, and most of Vietnamese society — even independent-minded Saigon — has been loath to forgive and forget. The result has been unemployment, poverty and discrimination.

Nguyen Huu Tan is one of the lucky ones. Last year the U.S. government approved him for immigration to California where he has relatives. By the time this story appears, he will be safely out of Vietnam. For the remaining 60 or so commandos still in Vietnam, starting a new life somewhere remains a dream.

The stumbling block is not Vietnamese authorities, it's the U.S. government. Hanoi has made it clear it will let them go, but Washington has thrown up roadblocks. True, recent anti-immigrant sentiment has made it difficult to drum up support for another group of foreigners, but the case of the 34A commandos is unique. They are few in number and there is no doubt that they have suffered greatly for their association with the United States. Most importantly, they are peculiar among South Vietnamese war veterans, for they alone bearded the enemy on his own ground — deep inside North Vietnam. They deserve better.

The culprit is the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It is in charge of the refugee program, which it administers with a capricious and seemingly uncaring hand. From the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, a single INS representative holds sway over the former commandos' appeals. Applications for emi-

gration are sent from Vietnam by the commandos — along with documentation of their SOG affiliation and a prison release form — to the Bangkok office where they are processed. It usually takes several months to more than a year before a decision is made as to whether or not the applicant "qualifies" for emigration. For the commandos still in Saigon, the answer is almost always negative.

Catch 34A

There are three categories within ODP: the family reunification program, for Vietnamese with relatives already living in the United States; the Amerasian subprogram, set up to help children fathered by Americans during the war; and the reeducation detainee subprogram. The first two have almost run their courses.

The reeducation program, dubbed the "HO" program from the first letters of *hoc tap cai tao*, the Vietnam-

U.S. Army Special Forces helped train Team Red Dragon, shown here during training exercise near Da Lat, summer of 1967. In September the team was dropped into North Vietnam and captured. Photo: courtesy Ken Conboy



U.S. Army Special Forces helped train Team Red Dragon, shown here during training exercise near Da Lat, summer of 1967. In September the team was dropped into North Vietnam and captured. Photo: courtesy Ken Conboy

ese words for reeducation, is more complicated. Human rights groups claim more than 1 million people went through reeducation camps following the North Vietnamese victory in 1975. According to Hanoi, the last prisoners were released in 1992.

The HO program began in 1989 as relations with Vietnam's communist government began to improve. "It was a desire to put a humanitarian and positive end to what was a very traumatic experience," Martha Sardinas, head of the State Department's Vietnam visa program, said at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok.

More than 117,000 Vietnamese have immigrated to the United States under the HO program. About 50,000 applicants remain to be interviewed and about 80 applicants are screened each day at the Foreign Ministry compound in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Despite these daunting numbers, William Fleming of the State Department's Refugee Office says, "We are committed to interviewing all those who are eligible and who have registered already."

For the commandos, this assurance means little. In order to qualify for the program, the INS — which has ultimate authority — decided the commandos (and other former members of the South Vietnamese military) must have spent at least three years in a reeducation camp after the fall of South Vietnam in 1975. Although many of the 34A commandos spent 10 years or more in prison during the war, the INS ruled their political persecution did not begin until after the fall of Saigon — before that they were simply POWs.

To make matters worse, no one at the INS has any real knowledge of the 34A program. When a commando applies for refugee status claiming he parachuted into North Vietnam on a secret mission, it is often treated with disbelief — not unreasonable considering how harebrained the 34A program seemed. But a little checking with knowledgeable sources would show that the stories are true.

Documents and personal accounts abound; all the INS has to do is check.

Some examples of INS inflexibility:

- Nguyen Van Ngo, a member of Team Tellus, was captured on 7 June 1963 and released from a reeducation camp on 15 April 1978 — just 15 days short of the three-year cutoff. Despite the fact that some of his teammates are already in the United States, Ngo was denied a visa.

- Duong Long Sang, a member of Team Cancer, was captured on 7 June

ese defectors specially trained by SOG for short-term, behind-the-lines missions), was captured by his old North Vietnamese unit and nearly beaten to death. He managed to escape and notified SOG of four Americans held prisoner with him. Ample documentation of this incident, plus the fact that Nam had provided valuable information on U.S. POWs, did not convince the INS that Nam was eligible to emigrate.

The good news is that all this might change. In mid-April, the U.S.



34A commandos still in Saigon awaiting INS permission to immigrate. "We owe it to them to let them into the United States so they can get on with their lives." Photo: Dale Andradé

1963 and held until 12 May 1982. Two of his teammates immigrated to the United States, but Sang was refused by the INS in April 1993 because he "failed to establish pre-association" with SOG. This decision was made despite the fact that Sang produced a photo of himself and two teammates as well as a prison release form stating that he was *Biet Kich*.

- Ngo Quoc Chung, leader of Team Packer, was captured on 4 July 1963. Chung, a veteran of Dien Bien Phu, was known as a particularly recalcitrant commando through his prison and reeducation time. He was finally released in October 1987, but given no papers by the Vietnamese. So far, the INS has been unwilling to hear his case despite ample documentation of his history with SOG.

- Le Thanh Nam, a member of the Earth Angel program (North Vietnam-

ambassador to Thailand, David F. Lambertson, sent a cable to Washington suggesting the INS reconsider its rejection of the commandos. "We believe they [the commandos] qualify," the cable read, "based on their associations with U.S. policies and programs and serving long incarcerations." Lambertson also acknowledged the obvious by noting the commandos were captured "while engaging in U.S.-directed missions to collect intelligence, conduct military and psychological operations, or to render assistance to downed American air crews."

Why the sudden difference of opinion within the government? Partly because complaints from a handful of Americans who sympathize with the commandos' plight pressured the U.S.

Continued on page 75

SOF Drives Congressional P

Culpability for the Waco massacre, already lapping at the feet of three Cabinet secretaries, has edged closer to President Bill Clinton. New allegations surfaced in June as congressional investigators began gathering and organizing evidence for hearings that were set to begin in mid-July. Three new developments raised the possibility that the president and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were in-

partment entity, one congressional source replied, "Because the White House told them to."

If DoD continues to balk at congressional requests to make available for questioning the 10-man Green Beret team that helped prepare the ATF for its ill-fated attack on Mount Carmel, it raises the possibility that Congress may use its subpoena power — and its authority to immunize witnesses from criminal prosecution — in order to compel the testimony of uniformed service personnel.

Ongoing new investigations on Capitol Hill may trace the fuse to the biggest law-enforcement disaster in U.S. history straight to the Oval Office.
Photos: SOF files

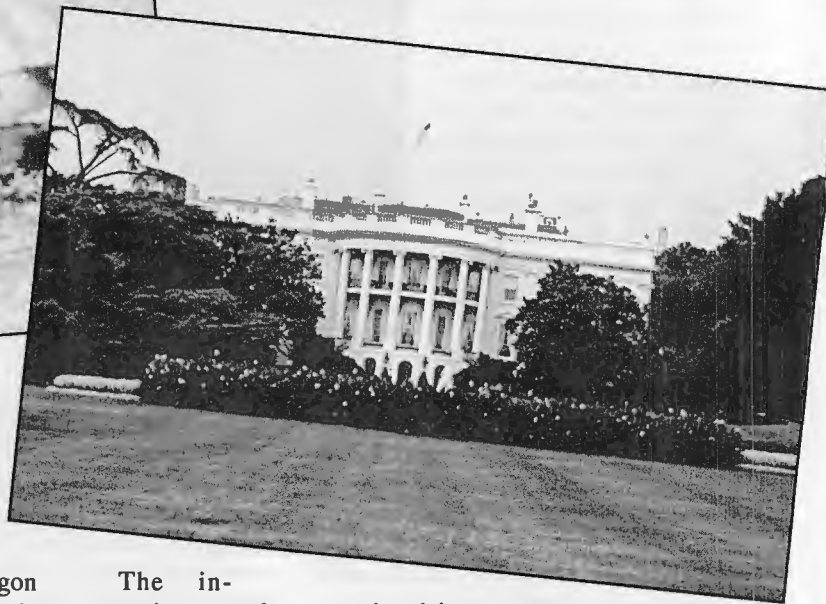


involved in the latter stages of the still-murky decision-making process for the nation's worst law-enforcement disaster.

Congressional sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told *Soldier Of Fortune* that the Capitol Hill probe was temporarily stalled in mid-June when Army personnel were ordered by the Pentagon not to talk with investigators looking into the exact role that Special Forces troops played in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' attack on the Branch Davidian religious compound.

This was confirmed by Department of Defense (DoD) contacts, who said some members of the 3rd Special Forces Group involved in the ATF's Waco case were being questioned behind closed doors at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, "after being advised of their Miranda rights" to have an attorney present and not incriminate themselves. "It's definitely an intimidation tactic," one military source said. "The brass are trying to put the fear of God into those men to keep their mouths shut."

Asked why the DoD would try to stonewall a congressional investigation focused primarily on the BATF, a Treasury Department agency, and the FBI, a Justice De-



The intense interest of congressional investigators in the Army's role in the Waco debacle indicates that the Capitol Hill probe is following closely in the tracks of *SOF's* ongoing investigation. The magazine has detailed the Army's allegedly illegal role in the disaster, including the names of Special Forces participants, four of whom reportedly were at Mount Carmel as ad hoc raid advisers (see "Special Forces Involved in Waco Raid," May '94 and "No Peace Without Justice," May '95).

According to congressional sources, the hearings, which as of this writing in mid-June were set to begin 12 July, are to focus on six major areas: a failed ATF investigation; a defective ATF search warrant affidavit; the extent and legality of DoD involvement; the failed ATF raid; the FBI's failed negotiations; and the FBI's failed armor-assault/gas-insertion plan (see the previously referenced back

issues of *SOF*, plus “Gun Gestapo’s Day of Infamy,” June ’93; “A Blundering Inferno” and “What Went Wrong in Waco,” July ’93; “Waco’s Defective Warrants,” Aug. ’93; “What the Feds Don’t Want You to Know About Waco,” Oct. ’93; and “Waco: Behind the Cover-up,” Nov. ’93).

A Fiery Trail

In a separate development, a Department of Justice lawyer, who also asked not to be identified, said it became apparent by 16 April 1993 — only three days before the fire that claimed at least 82 lives — that first lady Hillary Clinton participated in White House briefings at which final approval was given for the federal government’s final solution at Waco — an armored assault and chemical attack by SF-trained FBI agents.

These two new revelations came on the heels of a story in the London *Sunday Telegraph* that said Lisa Foster, widow of White House Deputy Counsel Vincent W. Foster Jr., told FBI agents looking into her husband’s mysterious death that he was involved in planning and approving the 19 April operation, and that he was subsequently “horri-fied” by the fiery end as he felt “everything was his fault.”

Sitting in with Foster on the White House meetings that led up to the fiery conclusion in Waco was Hillary Clinton, the Justice Department source said. During the 51-day standoff in Waco, the first lady and Associate Attorney General Webster L. Hubbell “were calling the shots,” the attorney said. “Hillary was clearly part of the decision-making process,” adding that the Department of Justice was, at that time, “a ‘stepchild’ of the first lady. ... That’s where the whole strategy of claiming child endangerment arose.”

The president’s wife, a former executive board member of the Children’s Defense Fund, played an influential role in the president’s selection of Attorney General Janet Reno, many sources agree. Reno said she approved the FBI’s final assault on the Branch Davidian home because of her belief that the children inside would be in great danger if the standoff continued. She was chosen as attorney general only after the first two nominees — like Reno, both female and both liberal — were withdrawn in the midst of heated controversy. Reno was sworn in only after the Waco standoff had begun and by then, the Justice Department source said, Hubbell was functioning as a de facto head of the Department of Justice.

White House Involvement Strong

Records confirm that the White House briefings on Waco, which began after the disastrous ATF raid of 28 February 1993, were attended by, among others, Hubbell, Foster, Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger C. Altman, White House Chief of Staff Thomas F. McLarty, White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum and senior White House advisers Bruce R. Lindsey and George Stephanopoulos.

Hubbell, Foster and Hillary Clinton were all former partners in the Rose law firm in Little Rock, Arkansas — an influential group at the center of the Whitewater real estate and banking scandal, already the object of a special

prosecutor’s investigation. Hubbell was forced to resign from the Justice Department, and later pleaded guilty to mail fraud and other federal felony charges.

Foster left the White House in the middle of the day on 20 July 1993. His body was found hours later in a secluded national park in northern Virginia. Although ruled a suicide, his death is still under investigation by the Whitewater special prosecutor’s staff. Nussbaum was forced to resign after he removed files from Foster’s White House office that were sought by agents investigating Foster’s death.

Altman was forced to resign after allegedly lying to a Senate Banking Committee hearing on the Whitewater scandal. Altman was not charged with perjury, however. Lindsey and Hillary Clinton are still under investigation by Whitewater prosecutors.

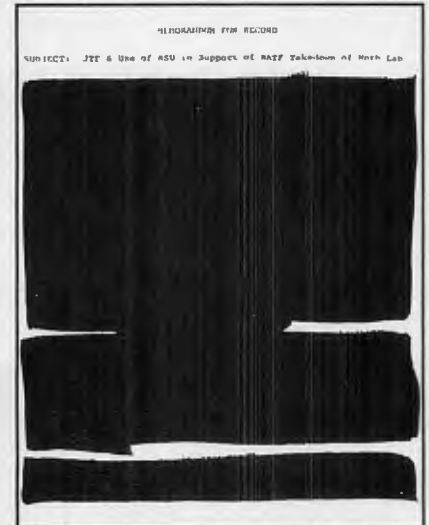
Lisa Foster told FBI agents she was unaware of “anything illegal or highly damaging” to the Clintons, according to published reports about her statement to the FBI, but she added that her late husband “never told her anything about his clients” anyway. Acting on the belief that Foster’s death was a suicide, the FBI asked the widow if there was anything Foster was involved in at work that might have caused him uncontrollable anguish. She mentioned the scandal over the White House travel office, dubbed Travelgate, but added that it did not induce enough stress by itself to explain Foster’s alleged depression. But seeing Mount Carmel burn to the ground “horri-fied” her husband.

Pangs of Conscience?

There was no suicide note found with Foster’s body when it was recovered at Fort Marcy Park, located between George Washington Parkway and the Potomac River, near CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia. Although a gun was found, the position of Foster’s body, his wound and the remarkable lack of blood are believed by many familiar with the investigation to be inconsistent with suicide.

A purported suicide note was found six days later, supposedly by Nussbaum in the folds of Foster’s briefcase. The alleged suicide note apparently had been torn into 28 pieces, one of which has never been located.

Continued on page 86



In other circumstances, it might be funny: Freedom of Information Act (designed to prevent government misdeeds and obfuscation) request for Waco documents brings a sheet entirely blacked out except for the heading “MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD - SUBJECT - JTF-6 Use of RSU in Support of BATF Take-down of Meth Lab.” Oh, that’s OK. *SOF* has better sources — and so will Congress during its investigation.

Question 46



YES



NO

(46) The U.S. Government declares a ban on the possession, sale, transportation and transfer of all non-sporting firearms. A thirty-day amnesty period is permitted for these firearms to be turned in to the local authorities. At the end of this period, a number of citizen groups refuse to turn in their firearms. Consider the following statement: I would fire upon U.S. citizens who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by the U.S. government.

Truth Behind "New World Order" Combat Arms Survey

by James L. Pate

No American president prior to William Jefferson Clinton ever agreed to concede command of U.S. military troops to foreign U.N. military officers. Indeed, the United Nations has become a favorite foreign policy tool of President Clinton, and during his administration U.S. troops have participated in more U.N. operations than in any other period in the world organization's 50-year history.

Clinton's official approval for U.N. operational control of U.S. troops is most clearly stated in Presidential Decision Directive 25. Although classified, a sanitized version of PDD-25 was publicly released in May 1994, titled *The Clinton Administration's Policy on Reforming Multilateral Peace Operations*. Among the key publicized elements is a provision outlining when foreign U.N. military officers on U.N. operations will command U.S. armed forces.

The following June, as Clinton zig-zagged on whether to deploy U.S. ground troops to protect the protectors in Bosnia — the U.N.'s increas-



Blue hats with metal detectors: U.S. Marines under U.N. flag searching for Americans' guns? Not likely, if the Marines have anything to say about it. These Canadian engineers under U.N. command search for land mines in the former Yugoslavia. Photo: Jon O'Connor

ingly irrelevant protection force UNPROFOR — photocopies began circulating of portions from a controversial Navy Postgraduate School master's thesis. Officially titled

Peacekeeping and U.N. Operational Control: A Study of their Effect on Unit Cohesion, it is likely to provoke a continuing debate among U.S. military and diplomatic policymakers.

No doubt this policy debate will spill over into the public arena as well, where its findings will resonate among all citizens fearful of the growing military involvement in domestic civilian law enforcement. Written by Navy Lieutenant Commander Ernest Guy Cunningham, the thesis gained notoriety among U.N. critics and Second Amendment champions for the controversial "Combat Arms Survey" it contained. On 10 May 1994, the 46-item questionnaire was given to 300 male Marines with combat-related military occupational specialties (293 enlisted Marines and seven officers, the highest rank being captain).

Would You Fire...

While the results of Cunningham's research raise potentially thorny issues for Clinton's U.N.-centered foreign policy — and may serve as ammunition for those who oppose greater U.S. involvement in the United Nations — it was the final

item in the survey, question 46, that set off alarm bells. Armed with few facts, many conspiracy-theory advocates rushed to yet another ill-informed judgment, unfairly labeling Cunningham as a champion of gun control and the New World Order political agenda. (See "Would You Fire on U.S. Gun Owners?" Aug. '95.)

Granted, question 46 is enough to raise the eyebrows of anyone who cherishes the Second Amendment: *The U.S. government declares a ban on the possession, sale, transportation, and transfer of all non-sporting firearms. A 30-day amnesty period is permitted for these firearms to be turned in to the local authorities. At the end of this period, a number of citizen groups refuse to turn in their firearms. Consider the following statement: I would fire upon U.S. citizens who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by the U.S. government.*

The first seven questions of the survey solicited specific demographic information about rank, grade, military occupational specialty, etc. The remaining 39 items dealt with non-traditional military missions, defined in the thesis as Operations Other Than War, or OOTW. Hypothetical scenarios involving U.S. troops hinged on whether operational control was held by U.S. or foreign U.N. officers. The scenarios broke down into three basic types: questions 8-17 involved nontraditional missions conducted in the United States under U.S. command; questions 18-23 pertained to OOTW missions conducted abroad under U.S. command; and questions 24-30 posed international nontraditional military scenarios under foreign U.N. command. Questions 34-46 were a mix of OOTW situations of all three types.

Each question provided one of five

responses to choose from: "strongly disagree," "disagree," "agree," "strongly agree," or "no opinion." Responses to all questions were also tabulated as aggregate positive or negative responses indicating overall support or opposition.

Thus, on question 46, 61.67% of



In a nutshell, the majority of Leathernecks questioned in the "Combat Arms Survey" seemed to be up for overseas missions such as nation-building, peacekeeping, warfighting — but as U.S., not U.N., Marines. Photo: DoD

the 300 Marines surveyed indicated they would *not* fire on U.S. civilians resisting the confiscation of non-sporting firearms, while 26.34% overall said they *would* follow orders to shoot in such a scenario. The five-part breakdown on question 46 is as follows: 42.33% strongly disagreed, 19.33% disagreed, 18.67% agreed, 7.67% strongly agreed and 12% had no opinion.

Question 46, which will be further

discussed below, was not the only provocative scenario posed by the combat arms survey. Among other intriguing findings:

- 85.33% of the 300 Leathernecks were willing to become part of a "U.S. National Emergency Police Force." "Obviously, these folks are fairly ignorant of" the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which, in general, prohibits military involvement in civilian law enforcement, Cunningham told *Soldier Of Fortune* during two days of interviews. "I think this indicates a dereliction of duty on the part of the administration, both military and civilian."

- 84% favor direct military involvement in the enforcement of domestic drug laws, while 13.67% oppose it and 2.33% had no opinion.

- 81.61% agreed that U.S. combat troops should be used within the United States as advisers to SWAT units, the FBI or the ATF; 13.37% disagreed, 5.02% had no opinion.

- 70.33% opposed the use of military troops to teach civilian school children, while 8% had no opinion and 21.67% would agree to such a plan.

- 69.33% disagreed with swearing to a code as a "U.N. fighting person" pledged to maintain "every nation's way of life ... [and] give my life in their defense"; 23.66% would agree to

taking such an oath and 7% had no opinion.

- 47% disagreed with using U.S. troops to clean up environmental disasters in the United States, while 46% thought that would be alright, and 7% had no opinion.

The survey's overall results "revealed that nontraditional missions were acceptable to a majority of the [300 Marines surveyed] if these missions were conducted in the United

States and under U.S. operational command," Cunningham told *SOF*. "When the question shifted to missions outside the United States, however, a notable shift toward negative responses occurred. This was the starkest finding of my research; that 64% of the Marines — almost two-thirds — disagreed with participation in any of the missions listed when under U.N. operational control." Of the remainder, 25% of the 300 Marines surveyed said they would agree

used in an attempt to gauge the impact on unit cohesion under such circumstances.

Generally speaking, unit cohesion is how well the individual members of a combat outfit work together as a unit under stress; how well individuals in the unit function as an organic whole. Cunningham's thesis defines the two-dimensional aspects of unit cohesion — horizontal and vertical — and explains how the degradation of one dimension more often than

diers ..." the 197-page thesis said. "The unit leader is the most crucial element in the development of unit cohesion. Leaders must foster an environment conducive to unit cohesion and define the unit's purpose ... Leaders, depending on their capabilities, can either enhance or degrade unit cohesion, [which] is not static. Once gained, it can be easily lost. One major incident that can affect the cohesion of a unit is the loss of its leader by attrition or transfer. Even if the leader is very capable, the process of face-to-face bonding between leader and unit is time-consuming."

Cohesion Makes A Fighting Team

Vietnam is a good example. Despite control by U.S. forces of the air and, to a lesser extent, the coastlines, plus our vast technological and matériel superiority, it was the Viet Cong's unit cohesion more than any other single factor that enabled them to function as well and for so long against daunting odds. In contrast, the long term morale and determination of American forces in Vietnam, with the possible exception of special operations units, were eroded by policies that subverted unit cohesion in favor of a willy-nilly rotation of new, unknown and often untested

individuals — grunts and officers — in and out of combat units. Further compromising unit cohesion of U.S. troops, was a growing awareness that home-front support was marginal, at best.

"A nation's support is critical to the personal commitment its soldiers take to a conflict," Cunningham's thesis notes. Other "factors influencing unit cohesion include the ... perceived competence in the use of military forces by the supreme governing authority, the competence of military leadership throughout the chain of command and the attitudes of the individual soldier ..."

These are all factors that come to bear especially hard in U.N. missions. Cunningham quoted a study on the attitudes of U.S. soldiers assigned to Operation Restore Hope in Somalia,



A U.S. GI in a U.N. blue beret keeps watch over the razor wire. Guarding a compound full of Americans caught with guns? No, a peacekeeper stationed in Macedonia to keep the Balkan conflict from spreading. If "Combat Arms Survey" is an indicator, it would be difficult to recruit Marine volunteers to confiscate Americans' guns. Photo: DoD

to serve under foreign command on a U.N. mission and 11% did not have an opinion.

The "Combat Arms Survey" was a tool, "the centerpiece of my research," Cunningham said, adding that "all of it was my work." If any Navy SEAL teams or other special operations units were administered similar questionnaires before or since his single survey in May 1994, as some publications have reported, Cunningham said he is unaware of it. "I was not involved in any work along those lines," he said. "This work was all original. I was the sole author of this survey." Cunningham's intent was to measure the current mood of combat troops toward their assignments to nontraditional missions and placement under operational control of U.N. officers. The measurement was

not damages the whole.

"Horizontal unit cohesion is the bonding of the individual soldiers with their peers," the author wrote. "Though each soldier is an individual, individuality is deemphasized to foster a spirit of unity where concern for the well-being and survival of peers is greater than the concern for the individual. ... The motivation to fight and die for one's comrade above and beyond the more abstract thought of country or a great cause has been supported by both soldier and social scientist writers. When faced with the realities of battle, it is the comrade engaged alongside in a mutual effort to survive who is important, and not some abstract ideology or thoughts of country.

"The vertical [aspect] represents the cohesion of leaders with their sol-

an ultimate failure. The study “found that the majority of soldiers disagreed with the U.S. sending military personnel to Somalia, especially when the mission changed from humanitarian assistance to peacekeeping.”

Follow Only Worthy Leaders

“If soldiers do not believe in their mission or in their governing authority’s competence to make these decisions, unit cohesion suffers,” the thesis said. “The ‘Combat Arms Survey’ results suggest that with the passage of time since that [Somalia] operation, the attitude of soldiers in this study are more strongly negative toward such missions.” Cunningham said he chose Marines as survey subjects for several reasons. Leathernecks have a tradition of being the first deployed for missions of short-term national security emergencies. The Marine Corps has had several recent foreign missions. And, as Cunningham, a former Navy pilot and former Army Special Forces senior NCO, observed, “The Marine Corps is universally noted for [its] devotion to duty, honor and country, as well as with strict compliance with orders.”

Cunningham chose combat-related occupational specialties because “the opinions of combat-trained soldiers who ... bear the burden of such policy decisions are considered to possess a higher degree of validity.” He chose the base at Twentynine Palms, California, because it is home of the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, site of some of the nation’s most broad-ranging and realistic live-fire combat training. The 300 Marines were randomly solicited to volunteer for the questionnaire by the local PAO. Had they had one more captain and one more senior NCO, they would have had the same rank distribution as two infantry companies. Whether officers or enlisted, the men with less time and rank tended in general to be at one end of the response spectrum, while those with more time and grade were at the other, he said.

“It’s not a representative survey of the entire Marine Corps, and that’s important,” Cunningham emphasized.

“The folks who took the survey were basically picked at random, but it isn’t a scientifically selected random sample of the entire population.”

In constructing questions for the survey, Cunningham said, it was important to word them to exclude any taint of personal political bias. Although the furor over question 46 was personally taxing at times, he said, it did validate his success in keeping any hint of his personal opinions from influencing the respondents. Most notable in her criticism was conservative columnist Phyllis Schlafly, who condemned the survey because it “constitute[s] psychological manipulation to promote a definite agenda. ... The political bias and purpose of the questionnaire

political bias is not toward the liberal end of the political spectrum that she was attacking; that it would be pretty obvious that I’m a conservative. I’m not a neutral kind of fellow. I’m very

81.61% agreed that U.S. combat troops should be used within the United States as advisers to SWAT units, the FBI or the ATF.

strong in my convictions. I’m an ardent constitutionalist,” he said.

Cunningham said he had other reasons for ending his questionnaire with the gun confiscation scenario. “I wanted to end the survey with a crescendo, keeping in mind the theme of unit cohesion, and to come up with



We’re here to confiscate your guns: with lethal force if you resist. A plausible scenario? Sixty percent of Leathernecks questioned said no — not in America against U.S. citizens. Overseas? That’s a different story, as Marines here search a Somali building for weapons during Operation Restore Hope. Photo: DoD

should be obvious from the text of the questions.”

“Thank you, Phyllis Schlafly!” Cunningham chortled in glee. “Since she was talking about liberals ... she pretty much validated my questions’ empirical and objective design. Because if Phyllis Schlafly knew me, she would have realized that my po-

a scenario that would be very emotional, that would be something dealing with the U.S. Constitution, dealing with civil rights, dealing with lawful vs. unlawful orders,” he said. “The assault rifle ban [which Cunningham said he opposed] was in

Continued on page 78



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PARTING SHOT

Continued from page 98

plined unit. They fight for loot, women, drugs, and "stardom." *Soldiers* are motivated by loyalty and unit cohesion.

Peters believes Low Intensity Conflicts (LICs), particularly "fourth generation warfare," are likely to dominate the future of war. Conventional wars are fought by nations whose citizens live in regions or territories with well-defined boundaries. A national authority controls their armed forces. Fourth generation warfare, however, refers to conflicts between different cultures (a culture consisting of people with like beliefs, behavioral norms). Such conflicts may cross national boundaries, and are characterized by aspects of LIC such as terrorism, psychological warfare, media manipulation, subversion, disinformation and assassination.

There may also be periods of shooting war. There are two particularly bad aspects of this: First, the nation-state fragments along cultural lines and loses its monopoly on war. National authority is weakened and anarchy may develop. Further, these battles are zero-sum games and to quote Peters, "You only win or lose." A good example is Rwanda. Such is the nature of this beast.

This relates to our society when one realizes our struggles for traditional Second Amendment and property rights verge on fourth generation warfare. Paramilitaries are the characteristic armies of fourth generation warfare. When the degree of force appropriate for armies, police, and the people they defend becomes blurred, society is at the edge of a slippery slope. Police feel the need to arm themselves and behave like specops soldiers.

When we form paramilitary militias, we are doing that for which we condemn the federal government. This also acts to confuse the line between military, police, and civilian applications of force. We invite the destruction of our country and our Constitution by bringing on fourth generation war. ✖

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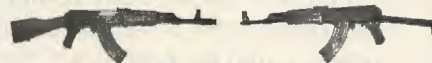
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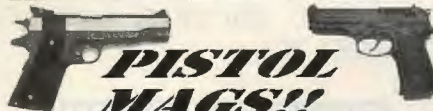


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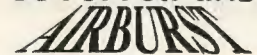
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 21

minutes. The last step is to swab the bore with Sweet's, alternating wet and dry patches until they come out clean.

This may not be practical in a tactical situation but should always be done in practice. A neglected barrel will not last long. Today's sniper rifles are precision instruments capable of remarkable feats of shooting in the right hands — but like any machines, they will not serve their masters well unless properly maintained.

Proper break-in protocol on a new rifle and careful maintenance of a proven rifle will help maintain their remarkable potential for accuracy — and keep all of our rifles "interesting."

Gabriel Suarez conducts training for armed professionals through the Front Sight Firearms Training Institute, Box 2619, Aptos, CA 95001. ✕

OWN NIGHT VISION

Continued from page 41

and design of the device. FOV is measured in degree angles and can range as high as 40 degrees on the better U.S. NVDs.

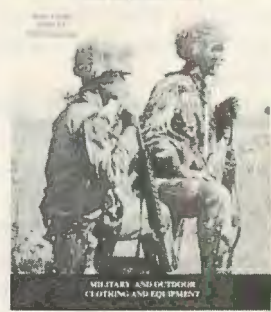
A 10- to 12-degree FOV is typical for most Soviet/Russian NVDs. Many night vision weapon sights have an FOV of between 8 and 10 degrees. The U.S. AN/PVS-4, with its catadioptric (light reflective) objective lens, has a 14.5-degree FOV. FOV is an essential factor to consider, especially for surveillance or search applications.

It is important that NVDs have automatic Bright-Source Protection (BSP), also known as an automatic brightness control or gain control. BSP not only ensures a consistent viewing brightness level, it also protects the image intensifier and enhances its life span. BSP circuitry automatically reduces the voltage to the photocathode when the system is exposed to bright-light sources. Some NVDs (particularly Soviet/Russian NVDs) do not have BSP circuitry, and exposure to strong light will cause

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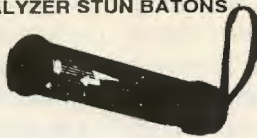
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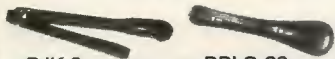
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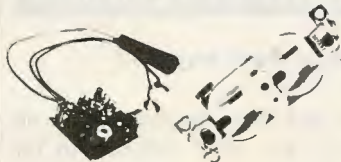
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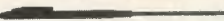
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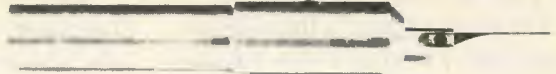
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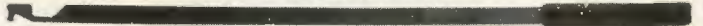


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the image to "white out" and possibly ruin the image intensifier.

The United States is the acknowledged leader in night vision technology and continues to set the standards by which all NVDs are compared. U.S. milspec NVDs are second to none in both quality and performance. Any NVD built to U.S. military specs will perform under almost any environmental condition that may be reasonably encountered.

Get What You Pay For

In these days of tight budgets, cost is an important factor for many individuals and agencies. Although the prices of U.S. NVDs have come down in recent years, Soviet/Russian NVDs may be purchased for substantially lower prices than their U.S. counterparts, putting night vision technology in the hands of many who could not otherwise afford it. At the same time, it is important to recognize that low cost does not come without sacrifices in quality and performance. A U.S. milspec Gen I intensifier is vastly different in performance from a Soviet/Russian milspec Gen I intensifier. The same holds true for Gen

II and III intensifiers.

The U.S. Army's Night Vision Laboratory recently tested five Russian systems. According to the laboratory, the Russian NVDs' "performance quality is comparable to the marginal end-of-life AN/PVS-5A system and ... it fails the low-light test on the TS-3895A/UV Test Set." Nevertheless, some users may find the performance adequate for their needs: The former Soviet/Russian military obviously did.

Readers need to be aware that quality control, or perhaps more accurately the desire for U.S. dollars, does remain a problem with some manufacturers in the former Soviet Union. Many substandard quality Soviet/Russian NVDs have been imported into the United States. Some Soviet/Russian NVDs have been advertised as Gen II and III, when in fact they are actually Gen I and II, respectively. Also, some Russian NVDs are being sold at gun shows and by mail order as "Swedish" NVDs. Caveat emptor!

Although the initial purchase price of an NVD may be of concern, it should not be the only consideration. When calculating cost, it is impor-

tant to consider the overall cost of ownership. Image intensifier life, warranty coverage and service support should be factored in. The intended use(s) and required performance of the NVD must be also be carefully considered. Ergonomic factors, such as weight, size, ruggedness, weather resistance, and ease of operation are critical. An appropriate purchasing decision can only be made by carefully weighing all of the above factors.

Former police officer Eugene Nielsen provides investigative, consulting and training services; he is an active member of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers (ASLET). A shorter version of this article appeared in The Law Officer's Magazine. ✕

CALAMITY AT KAWMURA

Continued from page 37

bunkers and fired, decimating the attackers in the wire. Adding to the carnage, Burmese shells landed short and fell on the remaining SLORC



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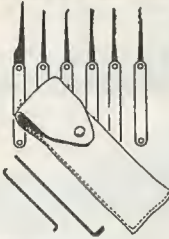
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This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of warded picks is included. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:
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PXP 8

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- Has 8 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.
- All Picks with Metal Handles.
- Copy of Lockpicking Simplified.



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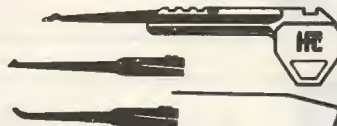


ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.
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This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick."
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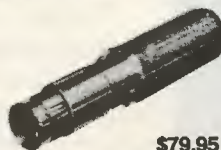


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MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute.
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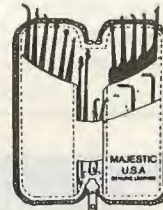
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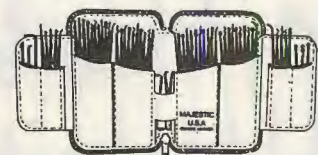
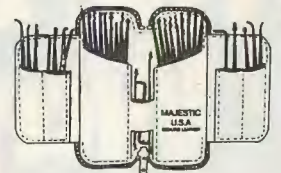


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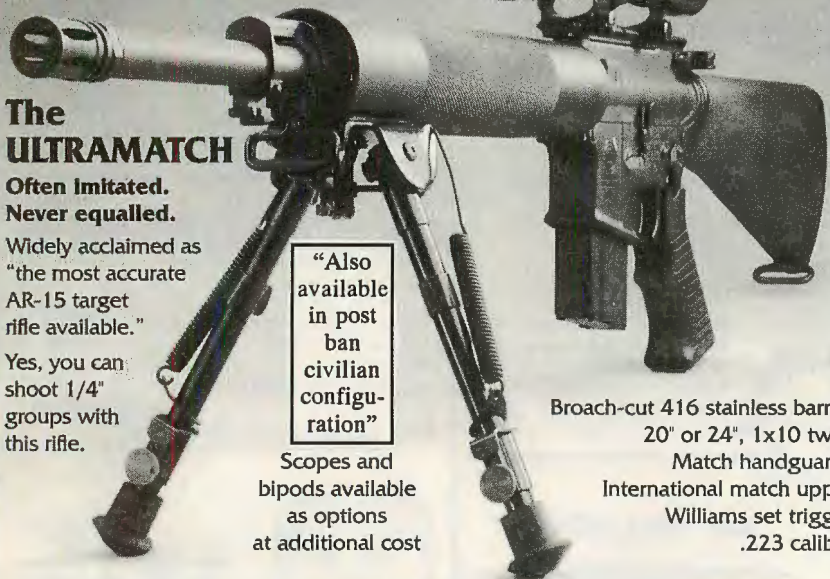
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soldiers struggling to break through. A radio intercept heard a SLORC officer frantically screaming: "Lift your fire! Lift your fire! You're hitting us!"

Three determined government soldiers, for the first time in Kawmura's defensive history, made it across the killing ground, through the razor wire obstacles and into the front-line trenches. Their luck lasted all but two seconds when the Karens shredded them with pointblank fire.

Once the smoke cleared, more than 100 Burmese, both dead and dying, littered the battlefield. Another assault on Kawmura had ended in failure. The ripped and mangled bodies served as a pathetic reminder of SLORC's disregard for its own soldiers' lives.

However, one shell scored a direct hit on a bunker. It collapsed and buried a Japanese freedom fighter who had been a longtime friend of the Karens and had fought bravely with them. His body was buried next to his comrades on Kawmura.

Stung by their humiliating losses, yet relentless in their anti-Karen feror, SLORC spent the next two weeks bringing in as much heavy weaponry as they could muster. An impressive battery of guns and a huge stockpile of ammo arrived from China. By now the Karens were in desperate straits. After repelling two major offensives and surviving weeks of bombardment, their ammo supplies were low and they were unable to return fire. Kawmura teetered on defeat.

On 20 February the final bombardment began. The most devastating weapon in the SLORC arsenal was the recoilless rifle. Burmese gunners on two nearby hills overlooking Kawmura fired with pinpoint accuracy into the ironwood front-line bunkers. Using delay fuses, the shells penetrated layers of earth and logs and blasted apart the bunkers from the inside. After only a few hours of shelling, all front-line bunkers were obliterated.

The smoke was so thick many soldiers began to vomit and collapse, giving rise to the Karen claim that chemical weapons were used. But one informed Western diplomatic source stated, "We conducted an investigation and our results were inconclusive." It is more likely the Karens suffered from the effects of cordite poisoning and battle fatigue.

On 21 February, Do Lah tearfully gave the order to abandon Kawmura at 0200. With all ammo expended, defenses smashed and soldiers exhausted, Kawmura was at the mercy of SLORC. The Karens took what they could carry and waded across the Moei River into Thailand. In two short hours Kawmura was all but empty. Two soldiers, driven mad by the shelling, stayed on to fight to the death. Their bodies were later found shot full of holes and floating in the Moei River.

Kawmura is in government hands, but SLORC paid a high price for its victory — more than 200 dead and 400 wounded.

Since 1983, when the government attacks began, more than 3,000 Burmese have been killed or wounded in the effort to crush the opposition. The Karens fought the good fight, but they needed outside assistance to have any chance of keeping a determined Burmese force at bay for the long term.

Kurt Hanson is a freelance journalist based in Southeast Asia who has covered the Karen struggle for the past three years. ✕

FINAL FIREFIGHTS

Continued from page 55

that day the Serb resistance was completely shattered, and our tanks and troops rapidly advanced 11 kilometers to the town of Kupres, which the Chetnicks had hurriedly abandoned. When we arrived in Kupres we found that the predominantly Muslim Bosnian army was also pressing the Serbs, and we linked up with them on our right flank. At this stage our advance stalled, and we only managed another 2 kilometers before encountering serious resistance from entrenched enemy infantry and armor.

Another reason for the slowdown of our advance was the fact that both of our flanks were dominated by Serb-held mountains, and efforts to dislodge them were not going well. HVO commanders decided to secure Kupres, a town formerly of some 8,000 Croatian residents, which had been fought over several times in the past and finally taken by the Serbs in 1992. The recapture of Kupres by the HVO was of considerable emotional importance, and many vows were

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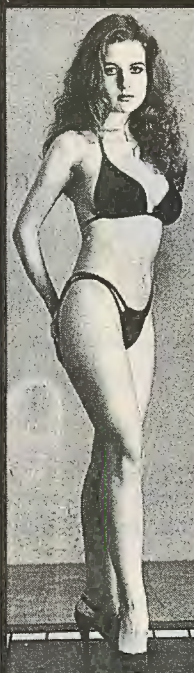
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sworn never to let it fall into enemy hands again.

Both sides then continued consolidating their positions and for the next several weeks trench systems reminiscent of World War I were dug, creating a no-man's land varying from 1 to 4 kilometers in depth. Part of this area was comprised of a deserted town and buildings from which my team conducted numerous operations to harass the Serbs.

Since no-man's land consisted of open fields interspersed with ruined buildings, and the enemy had positions on high ground overlooking the entire area, we usually had to sneak out at 0300 under cover of darkness, occupy our positions, and remain there until nightfall allowed us to creep back to our own lines. Sometimes we were sniping with .50 caliber or .300 Winchester Magnum sniping rifles, other times we had a 90mm recoilless rifle and 60mm or 82mm mortars. From ranges of 600-1,500 meters, we used these weapons to harass the Serbian bunkers and trench lines. On these operations I also had a radio link to brigade artillery and did some good fire control,

scoring direct hits with 120mm mortars. Our effectiveness was confirmed by Serbian radio traffic and their repeated, but fortunately futile, attempts to kill us.

On one such occasion, the brigade commander became aware of an impending attack by armor and infantry on the cluster of houses from which we were firing the recoilless rifle. He warned me on the radio that enemy action was imminent, but because the clump of buildings was surrounded by several hundred meters of flat, open ground, we couldn't withdraw. Glasnovic ordered a couple of our own tanks into overwatch position and organized a salvo of 130mm artillery rounds onto the likely enemy approach route. We reduced our activities and waited until dark before sneaking away.

On another mission, we were in the same general area with an 82mm mortar to complement our sniping rifles when, in an obviously organized counter, Chetniks from widely disparate positions opened fire on us. In the space of a few minutes we took a dozen rounds of 82mm mortar fire — many of which were close enough

to rain shrapnel on us; someone from a different part of the battlefield flew a wire-guided Sagger missile at us, and a T-84 tank popped out of cover, fired two quick rounds and disappeared again. After recovering from our initial alarm, and making note of the peculiar clattering noise a wire-guided missile makes as it flies by, we resumed fire with our own mortar and sniping rifles. Of course, all of our missions in no-man's land included gathering combat intelligence, and we were able to add some useful information to the commander's maps.

As the weeks dragged on, neither side showed serious inclination to advance, and we varied the type and location of our missions so as not to set a pattern. Other brigade activities during the period mostly consisted of using our artillery against Chetnik rear areas. There was also some patrol activity on our part, probing their defenses. From the enemy's side came some return artillery and tank fire, but no patrols. As Christmas approached, hostilities diminished while the snow fall increased. As of this writing it is uncertain whether anything else will happen during the win-

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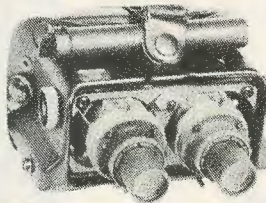
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ter months, especially since yet another cease-fire, leading no doubt to peace in our time, has been signed in Bosnia. ✖

THE LOST COMMANDOS

Continued from page 59

government to take another look at its refugee policy, and partly because of intergovernmental rivalry. The State Department plays a minor role in the refugee program, and some of its officials think the INS has dropped the ball. According to one former official familiar with the case, "The State Department was always irked by the INS position on some of these cases. Part of the reason may have been that the INS had control of the refugee program and State didn't, but more to the point, it just seemed that the INS was sometimes just plain unfair."

The pressure has prompted the INS to review its selection process for the 34A commandos, especially those previously rejected. According to an INS spokesman, "They are going to review the criteria to

see if everything was considered properly."

However, the U.S. government will not compromise on one thing: The commandos must show they have been persecuted by the current regime in Vietnam, a basic tenet of the current definition of refugee status. Fair enough; it seems clear that all 34A commandos will pass with flying colors. *Biet Kich*, after all, is a badge of dishonor in Vietnam today, and has kept most of them from receiving even the most basic rights.

But there is also another possibility. Dewey Pendergraf, an official in the State Department's Refugee Office, says there is a "safety net" that might be used in this case. "On the basis of recommendations from INS headquarters and this office, we can authorize that people be interviewed for refugee status even if they don't meet any of the criteria for the regular programs. That's what we're looking for here."

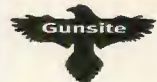
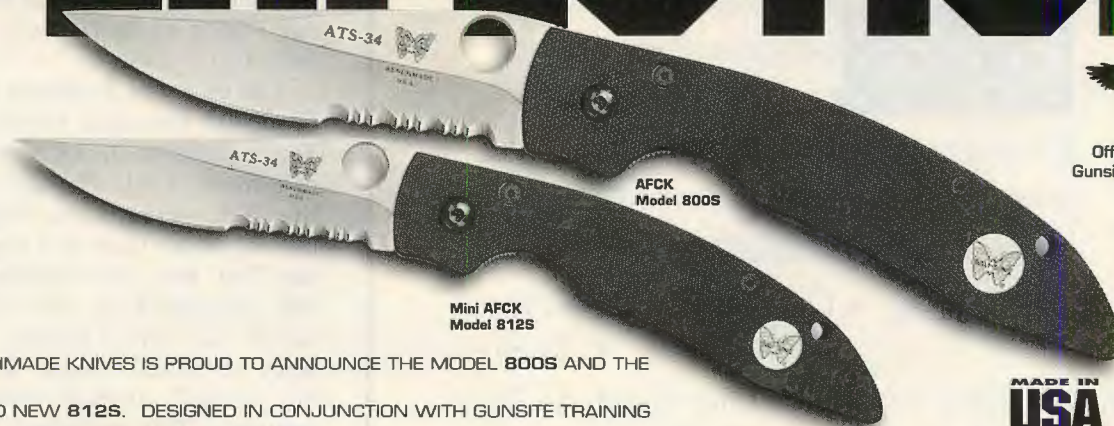
Whatever course the process takes, it seems clear it will not happen immediately. As of mid-June the INS was still formulating a response.

The case of the 34A commandos has also moved into the courts. On 20 April of this year, Miami-based attorney John C. Mattes filed suit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., on behalf of 281 former commandos (most of them already residing in the United States) asking for \$11,240,000 in back pay. Mattes arrived at the figure by taking the commandos' yearly salary — about \$2,000 — and multiplying it by their prison time.

The U.S. government, Mattes argues in the suit, failed "to continue the commandos' salaries until the return of all the commandos from captivity." He claims this was done deliberately by the U.S. government, which declared the commandos dead in 1969 rather than continue to pay benefits to the families, despite ample evidence that many were alive and in prison.

What is the precise legal argument? In Mattes' words: "The legal theory is that there was a direct breach of contract by the United States, which calls for the commandos to be paid until they returned from their mission. One party cannot just walk

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away from a contract just because it's convenient to do so."

As evidence, Mattes relies on a once top secret document called the "MAC-SOG Documentation Study," written in 1970. The study clearly outlines the relationship between SOG and the South Vietnamese covert counterpart, the Strategic Technical Directorate, and shows that SOG knew most of the teams had been captured, not killed.

In order to prevail in court Mattes will have to overcome a past ruling on a similar case. In 1981, a Chicago attorney, Anthony Charles Murray, sued the U.S. government on behalf of Vu Duc Guong, another 34A commando, for \$449,201 in back pay plus \$21 million in damages. Not surprisingly the case failed.

Guong was part of a maritime operations program which ran sabotage missions up and down the North Vietnamese coast. Recruited by the CIA in 1962, Guong and several other team members were trained as frogmen and demolition experts. They were captured on 15 March 1964 during a sabotage mission near Quang Khe, about 60 miles north of the DMZ. According to Guong's testimony, he was held until January 1980, when he managed to escape.

Ironically, Guong had no trouble getting into the United States. Before 1984, the U.S. government assumed anyone escaping from a communist country was a political refugee and welcomed them with open arms. Today, Guong might have been refused entry by the INS.

The case was dismissed because of an old precedent known as the Totten Doctrine. In 1878, the estate of a former Civil War spy claimed the U.S. government owed him money for his work as a spy during the Civil War. The Supreme Court was unsympathetic and ruled any action was barred because the secrecy of Totten's work "precludes any action" taken to enforce the contract. "This condition ... is implied in all secret employs of the government in time of war, or upon matters affecting our foreign relations, where a disclosure of the service might compromise or embarrass our government in its public duties. ..." Based on this precedent, any secret contract with the

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government is ultimately unenforceable. That precedent still applies.

Clearly this is a complex case. On the one hand, the 34A commandos are a drop in the bucket of other South Vietnamese war veterans seeking asylum in the United States. Are they any more special? On the other hand, the INS bungled its mandate with a cavalier dismissal of the commandos' claims simply because of rigid rules and because no one there knew enough about the covert program to make an informed judgment. Still, the government is taking a step in the right direction by reexamining the remaining cases.

Time To Take Responsibility

The solution does not lie in the courts, however. The current suit on behalf of the commandos — like the earlier case in 1981 — assumes that the men who jumped into North Vietnam were ultimately part of the U.S. military and entitled to the same considerations as other U.S. soldiers. But if that were true, then every soldier in the South Vietnamese army could argue the same thing. Operational Plan 34A was a covert op — ostensibly deniable by the United States — so it should come as no surprise that Washington did not openly admit to its involvement. However, the war is long over and it is time to take responsibility.

Nor is money the answer. Kenneth Conboy, a former Asian affairs analyst with the Washington-based Asia Studies Center and an expert on special operations in Southeast Asia, rejects the notion that the 34A commandos are owed a living because of their association with the United States. "If the commandos are eligible for monetary reimbursement, where does it end?" he asked rhetorically. "The United States conducted similar agent insertions in the Ukraine, into Albania, into Cuba, in Laos, etc. Are they all eligible? To my mind, giving the commandos the opportunity to immigrate — and the opportunity to begin a new life — is a form of back pay with a price tag far higher than anything they can get from the courts."

Fred Caristo, a former U.S. Army officer with SOG who personally worked with many of the commandos, agrees that money is not going to help. "What these men need is a

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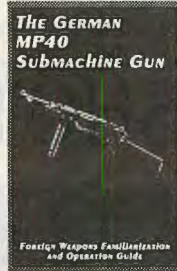
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new start and some medical benefits," he suggested. "Most of them are ailing after their long prison stays. But we owe it to them to let them into the United States so they can get on with their lives."

The decision lies with the INS.

Dale Andradé is a Vietnam historian and frequent contributor to SOF. His recently published book, Trial By Fire, from Hippocrene Books, is a study of the 1972 Easter Offensive in Vietnam. ✕

SNIPER RIFLE

Continued from page 47

face leaves much to be desired. Nevertheless, the results we obtained (approximately 2 MOA) were no worse than any number of other military sniper systems of this era, such as the German K98k, British Lee Enfield No. 4 Mk I(T) or U.S. M1C Garand.

By today's sniper system standards — close to 0.5 MOA performance — the M91/30 sniper rifle falls woefully short, as do almost all of its contemporaries. However, this is a genuine

historical artifact, and it is worth far more than \$400. It is not the countersniper system I would recommend for the selected marksmen of your local police department. Only a very few of these rifles are left for sale. Most have been purchased by military small arms collectors whose interests range from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, through Soviet-era small arms and military sniping. ✕

QUESTION 46

Continued from page 65

the news at that time, so I used their language and called them 'non-sporting firearms.' So I set it up for the citizens to turn in these firearms within 30 days.

"This is not an implausible scenario," he said. "It has historical precedent: April 19th, 1775. The colonists were ordered to do the same thing by the British under similar circumstances.

He also chose the civilian gun confiscation hypothesis because "unit cohesion would be pushed to the edge

of the envelope and beyond, because it captures a mission that is feasible, especially in light of Waco, the Randy Weaver case and the assault weapons ban." The 12% of the 300 Marines surveyed who indicated they had no opinion either way is a potentially ominous group, Cunningham warned.

"Understanding how the military operates, I think there's more of a likelihood that this 12%, if given an order for civilian weapons confiscation, would fall in line" with the 26.34% who indicated they would agree to such an operation. "So potentially there were ... 39% that would have executed the order. And there is the likelihood also that some of the ones that answered [that] they would not fire — [those] in the disagree category — would also [comply with the order] when put in the actual situation."

Cunningham thinks peer pressure would result in some of the Marines who disagreed with the order still obeying it, especially if shots were fired and self defense became a factor. And this gets to the crux of Cunningham's research: combat unit cohesion and how it is affected by

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non-combat U.N. missions, or missions in which U.S. troops might be commanded by a foreign officer who had not taken an oath to protect and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

Peacekeeping Becomes War-Making

"The recent historical evidence of peacekeeping operations turning to combat shows that when the environment changes, principles of war apply, and inadequacies of cohesion either within a unit or up the chain of command will result in deaths or mission failure," his thesis concluded. "Missions which are not supported by the nation at large, or do not generate a strong commitment by the soldier, will only erode the cohesion of fighting units. A possible long term effect of peacekeeping missions, if they do not have the support of the nation, could well be a negative impact on retention and recruiting.

"Some may argue that the military need only incorporate the necessary indoctrination and training to be both proficient and amiable to performing these operations," he wrote, "But doing so would require estab-

lishing formal training and indoctrination programs ... in effect, building a completely new program. Another possibility may be more realistic. Realizing the conflict and incongruity peacekeeping represents in a combat organization ... it may be necessary to bifurcate the military. ... Perhaps it is time to designate separate fighting forces and peacekeeping forces. ...

"What seems more and more certain as time goes on is that the U.S. is realizing the tremendous drain of OOTW on the fighting forces. ... Business cannot proceed as usual. ... Indications are that our engagement thus far in operations other than war during downsizing and restructuring has compounded the impact on the U.S. armed forces. The United States can not afford to engage in peacekeeping at the expense of combat readiness. It is not a question of legitimacy, but of realism. The opinions of these soldiers show that the further the military gets from its traditional mission, the more unit cohesion is threatened.

"There are those that are always quick to label other people, as paranoid alarmists, as New World Order fiends, or whatever," he said. "But I

consider myself more of a realist. It's part of not wanting to be part of the problem, but be part of the solution.

"Now that so many of our 18- to 25-year-olds have been left in the intellectual lurch by an inadequate public school system which has not instilled in them the heritage, history and principles upon which this nation was founded, we are seeing the failure of two elements critical in any healthy society: respect and accountability. Today, there is little respect and scant accountability, and this is another one of the emerging patterns that you see in societies that have risen and fallen," he said in the interview.

"With any of the nations you study, if they have a healthy military, and if there is a healthy relationship between the military and the civilian populace, then you will have a good strong nation in which productivity and civil liberty will flourish. But if you see an emergence of the military that is a tyrannical extension of the civilian government, one which oppresses people and leeches off the civilian sector ... then it's nothing more than a stepping stone to the anarchy, rebellion and revolt that will eventu-

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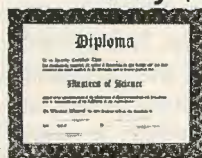
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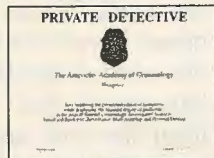
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June 26-July 1	Tactical Rifle 2
July 10-15	250 Pistol/Tact. Carbine
July 17-22	250 Pistol/Adv. Tact. Pistol
July 24-29	250 Pistol
July 26-28	Long Gun Alternative Force
July 29-30	Defensive Edged Weapons
Aug 7-12	250 Pistol/Adv. Tact. Carbine
Aug 21-26	250 Pistol/Adv. Tact. Pistol
Aug 28-Sept 2	250 Pistol/Tact. Carbine
Sept 9-10	Defensive Edged Weapons
Sept 11-16	250 Pistol/General Rifle
Sept 18-20	LP-ATP1
Sept 18-23	250 Pistol/Tactical Pistol
Sept 25-30	250 Pistol/Tact. Shotgun
Oct 9-11	LP-ATP2
Oct 9-14	250 Pistol/Tactical Rifle I
Oct 16-21	250 Pistol/Tact. Pistol/ Tact. Rifle II
Oct 16-18	Shotgun/ATP
Oct 23-28	250 Pistol/Tact. Shotgun
Nov 6-11	250 Pistol/SMG
Nov 13-18	250 Pistol/Tact. Carbine
Nov 27-Dec 2	250 Pistol/Tact. Shotgun

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Prescott Valley, AZ	Nov 18-19	Tact. Carbine
	July 17-20	100 Pistol
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	Aug 26-27	100 Pistol
	Sept 23-24	100 Pistol
Savannah, GA	July 29-30	Tact. Shotgun
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ally occur. The timetable may vary. Rome took almost 1,000 years to get where we've come to in just over 200 years."

Peacekeeping and U.N. Operational Control: A Study of Their Effect on Unit Cohesion is available from DTIC (Reference Section); phone: 703-274-6991, ask for ADA 293790 @ \$16.60. Also available annotated and indexed from Viking; phone: 619-975-1088 @ \$19.95.

Former staffer and award-winning investigative reporter James L. Pate is a regular contributor to SOF. ✕

FLAK

Continued from page 30

those who oversaw the incidents are directly responsible, but ultimately we, as Americans, are responsible also. We know about the problems, yet all we do is complain; we don't do anything to correct them.

Name withheld
Atlanta, Georgia

SF UNDER U.N. COMMAND

I am a Special Forces soldier currently stationed in Haiti and have been driven to write this letter in pure disgust.

Approximately 45 days ago, members of the U.S. Army Special Forces fell under the command of the United Nations. Not only did we fall under U.N. command, but we were made to trade in our green berets for blue. That's right, we were stripped of the presidential award that distinguishes us from the rest and made to wear head gear that robs everyone of their identity.

Yesterday, we were ordered to take down our stars and stripes because we did not have a U.N. flag to fly with it. Up until now I thought the American flag only came down when the last man had fallen or it was time to leave the AO. We feel as if we have been sold out by our own command.

We are also the only country in the United Nations in Haiti not receiving U.N. pay. That comes to \$87 a day per man. If we have to be degraded and fall under U.N. command, we should draw U.N. pay.

May the true Special Forces soldiers reign again.

Name withheld
Haiti

PHONY GREEN BERETS TRANSFER TO SEALS

I enjoyed Bailey's article ("Fake SEALs and Phony Frogs") in the July issue on phonies. I, too, have run into hundreds of these guys over the years. There was a recent case here in Arkansas where a judge reduced bail on a man who was up on drug charges after he claimed to be a highly decorated former SEAL and Vietnam vet. Turns out the guy spent some time as a machinist's mate on a ship off the coast of Vietnam.

Special Forces has the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association that can be a big help in separating the wheat from the chaff. Another great source for information is Steve Sherman at Radix Press in Houston. Steve has published a series of name lists taken off official Army orders and documents such as "Who's Who in SFA/SOA," "Who's Who From Hotfoot/Whitestar," etc.

I've noticed that some of these phonies switch back and forth between services. Right now SEALs are much in the media, so many of the phony SF-types have "transferred" to being former SEALs.

Leigh F. Wade
Alexander, Arkansas

NRA SLOBS

Over the years the members of the NRA have been portrayed in the mainstream media as fat, dirty slobs who wear smelly T-shirts with obnoxious slogans. When I went to the NRA's annual meeting this past weekend, I expected to see mounds of these human garbage pails everywhere. I was not disappointed; they were everywhere. I could not escape their foul appearance, and they were easy to see because every one of them was wearing a little laminated card bearing the word "MEDIA."

I am neither kidding nor exaggerating. The press people (unless they were talking-head TV-types) were a surly bunch. On Saturday night there was a members dinner at which the attending

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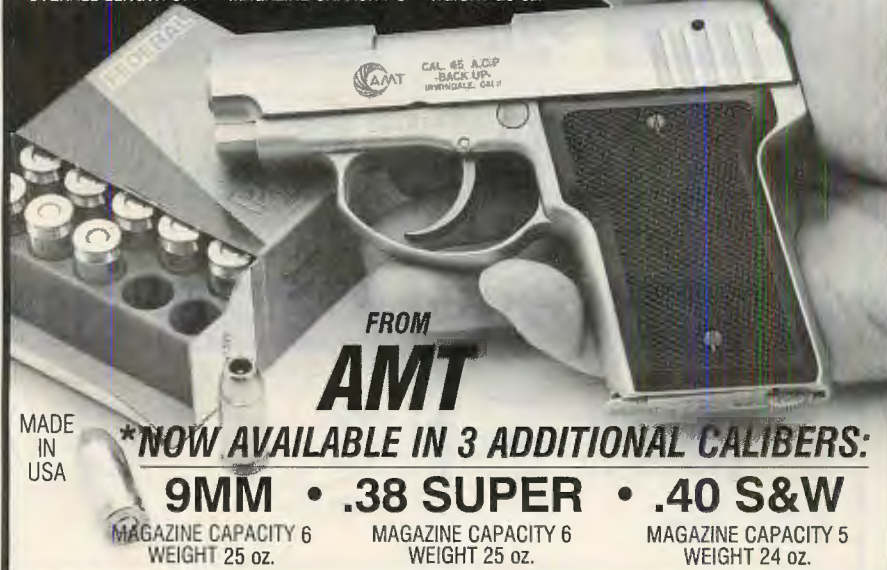
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male NRA members wore jackets and ties, while female members (of whom there were many) wore evening dresses. The press people made no attempt to look decent. To be fair, there was one decently turned-out media member who wore a clean, pressed, collared shirt and clean pants. He did not rudely shove people out of the way to get a photo; he was representing *Machine Gun News*.

So the next time you hear or see the stereotypical description of an NRA member or gun owner, remember it was probably written by someone who really knows what it's like to be a slob.

Todd Rathner
Tucson, Arizona

THANKS FOR THE CREDIT

Shelby L. Stanton's article on the end of the Vietnam War ("Death of a Nation," May '95) was well written. I would like to thank him for giving credit to the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam in defending the country during the last days.

The ARVN officially lost close to 1 million soldiers by the end of

April 1975. Close to 100,000 more lost their lives later in prisons and "new economic zones." Yet, 20 years after the war, nobody gave them credit for defending South Vietnam against a dictatorial regime whose goal was to take over the whole country at all cost. Once again, I would like to thank Mr. Stanton for giving credit to these heroes.

Hiep Le Pham
Gaithersburg, Maryland

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MISMANAGED

Continued from page 43

KK: The only speculation I could have was because ATF did not want

to get involved in the case. But instead of just saying, well, refer to the FBI, they just stonewalled. So, I just took it upon myself. I had a friend in the NSA who provided me with the number of the appropriate person in the FBI, and I referred it to a grade 15.

SOF: *And so you have no...*

KK: I have no idea what happened to the case. Another case, though, I insisted on carrying through. My agents and the DEA opened up a case on a motorcycle gang in Detroit. We were very successful.

SOF: *Did you do this on your own volition?*

KK: Well, I opened the case and the report went to the assistant special agent in charge. He did not want to approve it. He tried to say it was a territory thing — DEA or someone else should do it. But I had the case cold. I already had undercover agents inside. There weren't any fairy tales in my report; I knew we could do everything I said we could.

SOF: *So they let you go forward?*

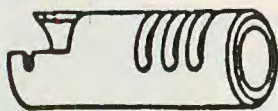
KK: Yes. But as the case got bigger and bigger, I was called in once a week and they threatened to close my case. I couldn't believe it. We were taking in

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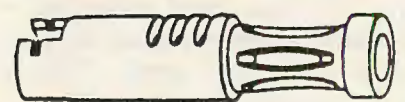
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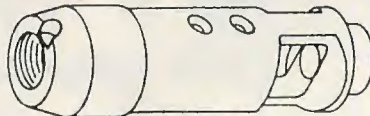
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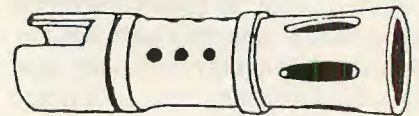
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guns every week and DEA was buying drugs. By the end of the investigation we seized their clubhouse, vehicles and motorcycles. We destroyed the group. And I was severely reprimanded for allowing the case to go.

SOF: You were reprimanded after you accomplished the mission?

KK: I sure was. My supervisor felt that another group of agents should have been running the case. But I feel the real reason was because there was always the risk of something bad happening. We were executing a lot of warrants, arresting people, seizing evidence. It was high risk and it scared them. Things could have gone wrong. It didn't matter that this was exactly the mission ATF is supposed to have.

SOF: Let's diverge a bit. Are you acquainted with the facts of the Lamplugh case?

KK: No, I'm not.

SOF: Well, on one of their magnificent no-knock operations, they went in and trashed this guy's house and were just generally assholes. One of the female agents stomped a cat to death. I'm no cat fan but this was a bit much. What's the psyche here?

What's the motivation? Do you have any insights?

KK: You mean for this type of brutality?

SOF: Sure. And like the Katona case where they went in and man-handled this man's wife. She had a miscarriage and once again, nothing was found.

KK: Many times agents will work with police departments, and they'll see this type of roughhousing. I'm not saying all local police officers do this, but their job is response and that is different. Federal law enforcement's job is supposed to be extensive investigation, the type of long term investigative work police officers do not have the time to do. So, when you see this type of behavior come up, many times this is something they have seen. But truthfully, I have never seen any agent act with brutality.

SOF: Are agents taught these response techniques?

KK: I thought the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center sometimes stressed the physical aspect of restraint more than negotiation. And a lot of people who are hired by ATF don't learn that you can talk to people

and get people to cooperate. There's not a lot of emphasis put on negotiation. And this type of behavior, if this particular agent showed that type of brutality, in my opinion, could be a response to the pressure of the situation. And there's a lot of it because you only have seconds to make those decisions.

SOF: Could this be an explanation for Waco?

KK: I don't know. But there are agents that have quit the SRT [Special Response Team] because of Waco.

SOF: Really? Any way to contact them off the record?

KK: Well, most of the agents that are active duty will not talk.

SOF: How do you want to wrap this up?

KK: ATF needs to let the agents work on criminals. That's who they want to work on. But I think if everyone understood just how easy it is for any agency, any law enforcement agency, to shut down an investigation, they would be amazed. And once this happens a few times, that agent is going to stop working. The agents are hard-working professionals that are horribly mismanaged. ✖

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Sincerely,
Busse Combat Knife Co.

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 27

deck we could vent the backblast over the side. At a time like this, you take your artillery any way you can get it. Additionally, each rifle had three rounds of beehive and a couple of newly issued HE fragmentation rounds.

Then I gave my platoon sergeant the bad news: I told him to climb up the steel mast of the LCM and man the .50. I could tell he didn't think much of my idea or being exposed to the enemy all the way to the top, but up he went anyway and began to take a toll on the VC.

I began to worry about the incoming we were attracting and stuck my head over the port side of the boat while it was facing away from the action. Surprisingly, we had not taken a single serious hit. There were a few steel-cored bullets stuck into the hull, but no penetration of the steel plate in spite of the close range — only 50 meters.

Instead of turning tail and unassing the AO, all three LCMs finally turned in unison and headed for the shoreline and the source of fire. The CO decided a frontal assault was the best course of action and issued a quick order to the platoon leaders and boat pilots.

Ramps dropped into the mud and we hit the brush line, clawing our way into the dense thickets. But by then, enemy fire had all but ended. That FO really earned his pay. He called in not only repeat fires, but also the air cavalry. Two Cobra gunships arrived in time to catch most of a VC battalion exiting the backside of the same piece of jungle we were busy thrashing through. The CO quickly told us to hold up while the cavalry came in and did their job.

With troops in the open, the cav was able to fire them up with aerial rockets fitted with 17-pound "nail" warheads. At that point, we were ordered to withdraw back to the LCMs. The monitor took the damaged LCM in tow and we returned upriver, mission completed.

The actual body count could not be confirmed, but we were told

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that between our broadsides and the gunships' attack, we destroyed a battalion-size force. In fact, that same VC battalion had been mauled earlier during the Tet '68 Offensive. Although we did not sustain even a single casualty, most of us qualified for the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB). Never in my dreams had I imagined I would earn the Army's coveted CIB for a naval action. What would John Paul Jones have thought? ✕

IT TAKES ONE

Continued from page 51

ficers," he solemnly stated. "They are acting secretly, so they don't need to identify themselves." All Secret Service recruits sleep in Spartan police barracks in nearby Der el Balah, wear civilian clothes during their training and receive a stipend of \$30 a month, about one-tenth of their full-time service salary. None wanted to talk about Hamas or their work.

As an Israeli F-16 buzzed overhead at tree-top level, Col. X explained how the academy was modelled on a number of intelligence schools from both East and West. "It is not exactly the CIA, and not exactly the KGB," he said while showing me one of the academy's empty classrooms. "It is our own version. We don't yet have any books or a library, but we have some computers." Then, as if on cue, Col. X began to explain how successful his men had recently been, and an agent from Rafah — a town that nearly straddles the Egyptian-Gaza border — came in and waved a thick roll of fake U.S. hundred-dollar bills and Jordanian dinars before our eyes.

It seems that a group of agents, acting on a tip, had earlier in the day raided a nearby house and arrested two Palestinian men who claimed they smuggled the money in from Egypt. "Our sources," said the unidentified agent, "tell us different. They tell us the money comes from Israel. Maybe it is a Mossad plan to discredit us."

However, when pressed further on identities of the men arrested, or whether press would be allowed to see them before trial, the agent mumbled something about having

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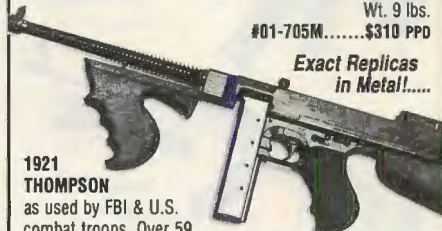


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to file a report and quietly left the building.

"Don't be upset," Col. X said, referring to the high-tailing agent. "We are a secret organization, and we can't go around telling everyone how we do our work or even who is doing the crimes."

Mark H. Milstein is SOF's European correspondent, currently based in Budapest, Hungary. ✕

CONGRESSIONAL PROBE

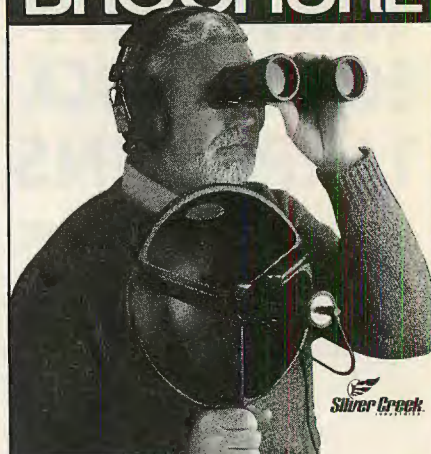
Continued from page 61

Among other notations, Foster wrote enigmatically that the "FBI lied in their report to the AG [Attorney General Janet Reno]." Nussbaum and other White House staffers said at the time the unexplained statement was a reference to the Travelgate investigation.

The revelation that Foster was personally haunted by the Waco massacre raises the possibility that his scribbled note saying the "FBI lied in their report to the AG" may have been in reference to the FBI's assurances to Reno that the CS riot control chemical injected in mass quantities into Mount Carmel would not cause permanent injury or death, and would not cause a fire. Subsequent scientific inquiry has indicated that the CS may have released deadly carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide gases that killed many Davidians before flames reached them, or rendered them incapable of escaping the inferno.

The FBI's urgent recommendations to Reno to allow them to use force to bring the Waco standoff to a conclusion were in direct contradiction to the best advice of the bureau's top behavioral scientist, Peter Smerick. In a series of four memos, Smerick warned FBI leaders that increasing the tactical pressure at Mount Carmel would be counterproductive to ending the standoff peacefully, and might incite more violence. Since-retired from the FBI's Behavioral Science Center at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Smerick admits now that he was pressured by FBI management to back away from his recommendation. He said he was badgered into rewriting a fifth memo so that it would sound like an endorse-

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ment of the armor-and-poison-gas attack plan.

Newly revealed Defense Department documents, obtained under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, indicate the DoD apparently is engaged in an ongoing cover-up of its own in the Waco disaster. For example, one staff action summary sheet dated 21 November 1994 acknowledges that "all files concerning this [Waco] mission support have been destroyed on or about 1 October 1994." But not before *SOF* obtained copies of many key documents from those files through confidential sources — copies of many documents from the files were made and hidden in various secure locations around the country, the sources told the magazine.

Many Agencies, Many Cover-ups

One of the documents released under the FOIA request, a 3 February 1993 memorandum for the record written by Army lawyer Major Philip W. Lindley, had its entire six pages blacked out, ostensibly for national security reasons. But an uncensored copy of the same memo obtained by

SOF indicates the national security exception to the FOIA was an apparently illegal ruse used to conceal potentially damaging facts implicating both the Army and BATF in several illegal acts, including criminal fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and violation of the Posse Comitatus Act.

Several new revelations were contained in the recently obtained DoD documents, which may be explored in the congressional hearings. For instance, a handwritten — and apparently backdated — memo from the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps mischaracterizes Lindley's memo by grossly minimizing its warning that "the degree of involvement proposed crossed the legal line and exposed the [Army personnel] to criminal as well as civil liability." The backdated memo attempts to credit Maj. Mark Petree, who commanded the Green Beret team that worked with ATF, with red-flagging legal problems — credit that Lindley deserves. In contrast, when Lindley tried to warn of legal problems, Petree had a lieutenant colonel call Lindley and threaten Lindley's career. Lindley's memo makes it clear that

Petree, contrary to being worried about the mission's legality, was a staunch advocate of the ATF's proposal, which, among other illegal acts, called for the presence of Green Berets "in proximity to" the Waco site.

Lindley's censored memo also refers to the ATF raid plan — which the ATF said did not exist at the time — as "an actual law enforcement mission with civilian targets ... to be attacked." A copy of the mission FRAGO (hasty op-order amendment) obtained by *SOF* in June confirms Lindley's characterization, referring to providing "ATF with the mission-essential training ... [for] tactical helo/vehicular assaults. ..." A DoD briefing paper prepared prior to the initial raid also confirms that ATF knew in advance that agents and innocent civilians would likely be hurt. The scenario briefing sheet states that ATF "recognizes that casualties are probable" and that "casualties will be [ATF], bad guys and civilians."

James L. Pate's award-winning coverage of the Waco disaster and subsequent cover-ups for SOF will continue: Watch for it. ✖

ATF WATCH

Continued from page 22

vehicle parked outside the American Warbirds office. When it was checked against motor vehicle registration lists by a friendly police officer, the return info sheet was blank and the cop's computer locked up.

The mystery of the OV-10Ds — and the ATF's refusal to provide details — is all the more intriguing because of a supposedly ongoing criminal investigation of the man who started the ATF air force, Special Agent William M. Reece. A veteran of more than 25 years with ATF, Reece was one of the founders of the bureau's aviation division, and one of its first pilots. By fiscal 1992, the fledgling air force had a \$1.2 million budget for seven aircraft and seven agent-pilots. (It still has seven pilot positions, ATF spokesman Stanford told *SOF*, which suggests that, given the number of OV-10 Broncos it now has, some

new hires should be expected.)

Reece retired as ATF's chief pilot and aviation administration division head in October 1993. His successor discovered "spending irregularities," according to a *Washington Post* story published 9 July 1994, and an audit uncovered the alleged theft of about \$1.5 million. Quoting anonymous Treasury Department sources, the *Post* reported that Reece is the prime suspect in "one of the largest internal thefts in ATF history." The story alleges that Reece submitted false invoices on aircraft leases and maintenance services between 1988 and 1993.

A Treasury Department audit sent to ATF Director John Magaw said that the chief and deputy chief of ATF's special operations division, which oversees the aviation program, "delegated full responsibility for the aviation program to [Reece, although he] did not adequately document his actions or program operations." Auditors requesting flight logs and aviation reports noted that Reece "had to re-create documents..."

ATF sources critical of their own bureau's management describe the allegations against Reece as typical of a "good ol' boy" network inside the agency that has also led it to run afoul of laws against race and sex discrimination. Under this system, favored managers are given extraordinary freedom with little or no oversight — which is why the acquisition of a weapons platform such as the OV-10 is so disturbing.

A criminal investigation by the Justice Department's public integrity section has apparently stalled, and Reece has dropped out of sight. If the criminal allegations are true, it means more than a third of the air "farce" budget for a five-year period was fleeced by Reece. Maybe he is on a tropical beach somewhere, sipping an icy adult beverage and enjoying life. Wherever he is, it's a good bet that Reece could shed a lot of light on what's going on behind closed hangar doors in the ATF air force. And maybe that's why ATF allowed him retirement with full pay and benefits. ✖

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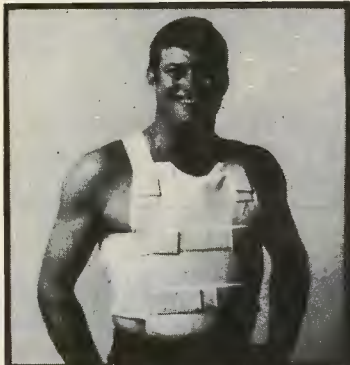
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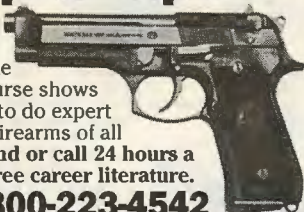
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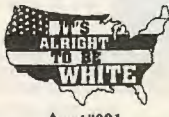
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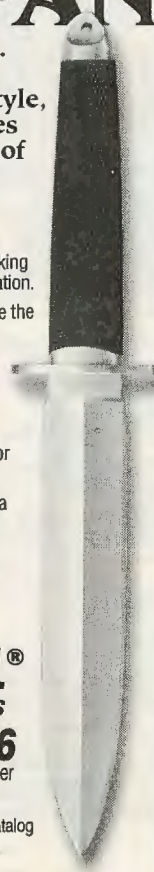


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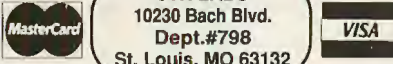
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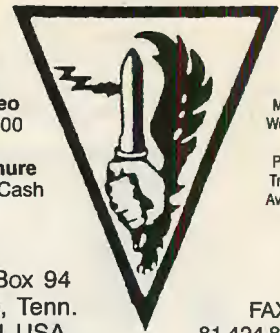
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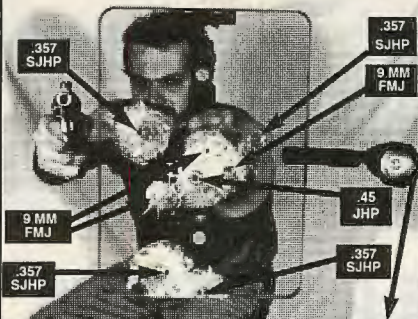
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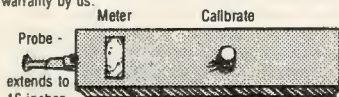
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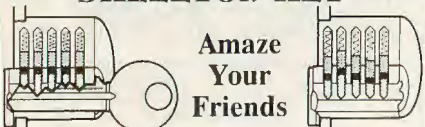
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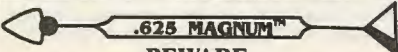
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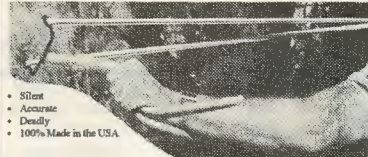
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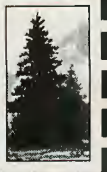
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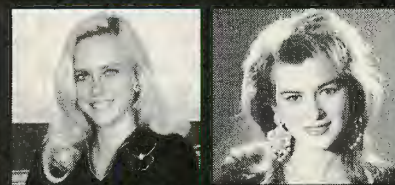
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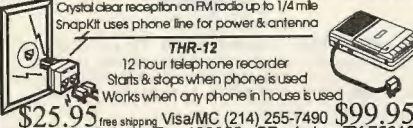
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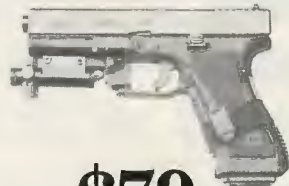


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AMT	81	Moore Technical Industries	78	Eden Press	89
ATN Corp.	70	National ID Center	79	First Witness Video	90
Amazing Concepts	85	North American Tarp	85	Global School Of Investigation	88
Automatic Knife		Olympic Arms	72	Greene Military	90
Resource Guide	77	Optimum Training Sys.	23-26, 31-34	Gun Parts Corporation	88
B-West Outdoor Specialists	81	Paladin Press	7	Hitek International	89
Beacon Telesystems	73	Quality Machining Inc.	84	Hurricane International	90
Benchmark Knife Company	75	REF Instruments	86	JTR Labs	90
Brigade Quartermaster	8-11	SOF Convention	28-29	LA Law Enforcers	88
Busse Combat Knife		SOF Expo	84	M.O.R.O. International	91
Company	Cover 4	SOF Russian Edition	86	Matthews Police Supply	89
Carolina Ordnance	67	SOF Sweepstakes	66	Politically Incorrect Graphics	89
Collector's Armoury	85	S.T.A.N.O.	14	Professional Career	
Cor-Bon Bullet Co.	80	Silver Creek Industries	86	Development	89
Crown Specialty	82	Southern Ordnance	69	S & K Products	88, 91
Danner Shoe Mfg.	Cover 3	Steve Arnold's Gunroom	71	Silvermans	91
Delta Press	77	Survival Radio	13	Special Operations Group	90
Devious Design	68	Sutton Enterprises		U.S. Cavalry	88
Direct Action Video	15	(Murphy's Law)	72	USI Corporation	91
Doubleday Military Book Club ..	18-19	T/C Industries	76	Vision International Dist.	88
Eaton Enterprises	76	U.S. General Technology	Cover 2	WW2 Products	90
Elite Force, Inc.	68				
European Connections	73	SUPPLY LOCKER			
Excalibur Enterprises	74	Cambridge Ergogenic Institute	89		
Gunsite Training Center	80	Clear Steel	91		
Hitek International	21	Cold Steel	89		
Intelligence Inc.	83	Cutlery Shoppe	88, 90		

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PARTING SHOT

You Are The Militia

by Charles Vossler

I have problems with the idea of organized citizen militias. While I agree we must assert ourselves to retain gun and property rights — and it appears the “echelons beyond reality” in Washington want to micro-manage every facet of our lives — many of these militias seem to operate in a conspiratorial fog that is, at best, weakly supported by facts.

What does “militia” mean when the Second Amendment connects “a well-regulated militia” with the necessity, “for the security of a free state”? If militia refers to bodies of armed men commanded by the states, then who are the “people” whose “right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”?

I think the wording implies a general, unorganized militia, with each individual being his own first line of defense against criminal attack. It follows that we must be able to keep and carry firearms, and train ourselves to use them correctly and effectively. This was intended as a powerful check on criminal activity, and provides national coherence by setting standards of public conduct.

When citizens are responsibly and effectively armed against crime, those who would deprive us of our liberties cannot argue that only their draconian anti-gun measures will control lawlessness. Tyrants have before

unleashed criminal populations to justify a general crackdown, but the legal gun owner can act as a check on his own government by reducing the need for its police powers. If the “unorganized militia” that is “well-regulated” consists of responsible and capable gun owners, such a militia is indeed “necessary to the security of a free state,” since it encourages a state in which violence from inside, as well as outside, is minimized. “The right of the people to keep and bear arms” not being infringed is crucial to this process, since it will provide a basis for civil peace and provide a pool of citizen-soldiers in the event of a foreign incursion or domestic tyranny.

Pro-gun organizations should have two missions: The first is intelligence- and psych-ops-oriented. We must know what is *really* going on, and carry the gun-rights message clearly and effectively to legislators and the public. Second, we must train ourselves, *individually*, to use firearms safely and appropriately. We must encourage other citizens, especially young people, to develop these interests and safe skills. The NRA is

a significant force multiplier for both missions.

Forming in platoons or companies and running tactical drills may give the illusion we’re all going to face it together. And unit training may convince us that we can survive the battle to come if we achieve cohesion and master individual weapons. But such tactics would fail against troops skilled in close quarter battle and counterinsurgency techniques, equipped with state-of-the-art weapons, heavy ordnance, comms, vehicles, aircraft and electronics. As Jeff Cooper has pointed out, “The private person who arms himself must remember that he will most likely be fighting as an individual when the flag flies.”

Encouraging us to en-

list, Carl and Nancy Haggard, in the May 1995 *SOF*, use a quote about the feds’ “two track approach ... to win over the populace ... [and employ] irresistible violence directed against warlord[s] and warriors.” The same words are echoed in a widely circulated video from the Militia of Montana. This is worrisome because had they read the article they are quoting from they’d know that Major Ralph Peters’ “warriors” do not refer to them. In fact, those who would form paramilitary units could learn a lot by studying Peters’ article in the 1994 summer issue of *Parameters*.

Peters’ article, “A New Warrior Class,” examines war fighters in local conflicts in underdeveloped parts of the world — battlefields familiar to *SOF* readers. Peters, discussing the “new age of warlords from Somalia ... to Yugoslavia,” contrasts “warriors” to “soldiers.” His warriors have “often acquired a taste for killing ... do not behave rationally ... are capable of atrocities that challenge the descriptive powers of the language, and will sacrifice their own kind in order to survive.” They are basically thugs — unlawful, violent, and unschooled children, or mercenaries who have fallen away from old armies and are incapable of operating in a disci-



“... the wording implies a general, unorganized militia, with each individual being his own first line of defense against criminal attack ...”
Illustration: Sara Gilbert

Continued on page 67

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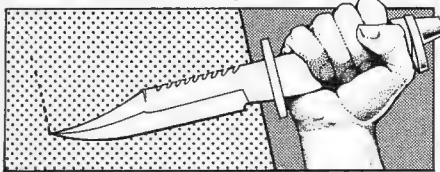
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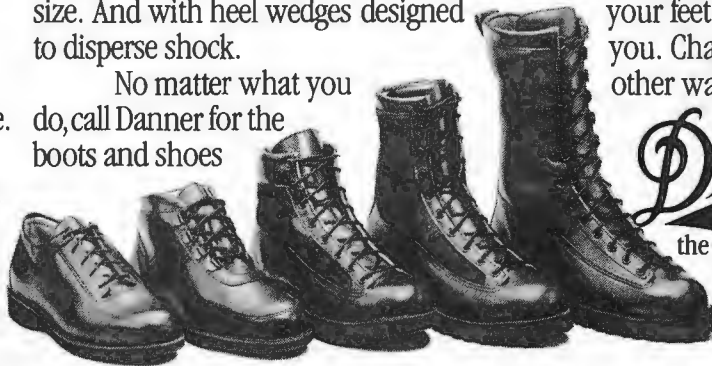
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